



U  
P  
D



Vol V March 2004

## **FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK**

There are few countries on earth that can match the wealth of India in terms of cultural diversity and colorful traditions. To add to that India has a history that dates back to prehistoric times and it nurtured a highly literate civilization at a time when many parts of the world were still primitive. The rich heritage of India is reflected in its literature, music, art and architecture, thus making Incredible India a true 'Holiday Paradise.'

Over the centuries the wealth of India attracted traders and invaders from different parts of the world and many of them eventually made it their home. They brought with them their own habits, faith and practices thus contributing to the composite culture of the country.

India is thus a melting pot of different faiths and religions. The diverse culture of India makes it the most unique country of the world. What makes holidays in India even better are that gaiety, color, enthusiasm and feast are what define festivals in India. Festive occasions are the best time to travel and experience the vivacious nature of the Indian people.

Customs and rituals are an integral part of the Indian way of life. These customs and traditions traverse the boundary of religion, caste and creed.

This issue of the History Update is dedicated to exploring the beauty and uniqueness of the country we call home - India.

**Dr. Patricia Gabriel**

# INDEX

	Page No.
Adventure Tourism	1
Enjoy the Best of East India Excitement & Tranquility	3
Flying High	7
Holiday Spots in South India	13
India's Timeless Heritage	15
Medical Tourism a Booming Industry	20
Migrating for Health	23
Magic of North India	25
People of India	28
On the Pilgrim's Trail	30
Tourism in Pondicherry	41
Soul Entity Always	43
Tourism Environment in India	44
The Land of Peace - The Land of the Noble Laurueates	46

# **ADVENTURE TOURISM**

For many people, vacationing is not just about lying around in sunny beaches with the only exercise being shopping for souvenirs. More and more people are taking up adventure tourism for the purpose of getting the adrenalin rush back into their lives. It can be defined as "experiencing the natural world of sport."

## **Angling**

India is an angler's delight; Trout and Mahseer fishing are available from the snow fed mountain streams to the rivers in the south. The coastal waters of India, provide the sportsmen anglers the adventure of deep-sea fishing.

Eg; Mandya

## **BALLOONING**

The balloon club of India is located at New Delhi's Safdarjung and has 3 balloons and 50 members. Begun in 1970 the club has organized an international balloon mela with great success. Taking off from Safdarjung airport, one will find this bloated airship floating past residential enclaves and some of Delhi's most interesting monuments and sports stadium. Anyone can claim a joyride, but the pilot's license comes following extensive tests and India has only one licensed balloon pilot.

## **Camel safari**

The latest activity in the Thar Desert is the camel safari inclined for those with time and sensitivity to experience. Here is a holiday with a difference, an adventure sport that calls for a little exertion, but its mounting popularity bears out a developing rapport between the desert, man and beast, making this an activity rarely experienced, but treasured as a memory

forever. The best safaris are in the heart of Thar, around Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. Safari organizers attempt to recreate the atmosphere of old caravan journey's.

## **Hang gliding**

While hang gliding has only just been introduced to India, several sites have already been identified by hang gliders, and those that merit note are the Srinagar valley in Jammu and Kashmir, Kangra, Dharamsala, Shimla and Kasauli in Himachal Pradesh, entire Western Ghats, including Pune in Maharashtra, the Nilgiri hills in Tamilnadu, Indore in Madhya Pradesh, the Chamundi hills and areas around Bangalore and mysore in Karnataka and Shillong in Meghalaya. Indigenously manufactured, hang gliders like Raj hamsa "mosquito"; "javalin" models are available in the market. But these do not compare with sophisticated state-of-the-art hang gliders of overseas.

## **Heli skiing**

India is the first country in Asia to offer Heli-skiing facilities. It was introduced in Kashmir in 1988 in collaboration with the famous Swiss born ski-mountaineer, Sylvan Saudan.

Heli-skiing is the ultimate in sport of adventure skiing. The Heli-skier is dropped from the top of the mountain or ridge by a helicopter. The skier can now negotiate virgin terrain and experience the thrill and danger of skiing on powder snow.

Kashmir has an edge over Canada, the favorite destination of most Heli-skiers who prefer it over Switzerland, Australia and Italy.

**SANA KAZEEM**  
04/HS/23

## **ENJOY THE BEST OF EAST INDIA EXCITEMENT & TRANQUILITY**

Size for size, no country on earth can match our own for sheer variety of scenery, history, customs and tradition, art and architecture. Whether your interest is in gardens or places of worship, ruins or palaces, wild and lovely landscapes or idyllic villages, you will find inspiration and ideas here.

### **ORISSA**

Orissa - with its carefully protected wildlife, enchanting countryside, architectural marvels and mystical ambiances, is an experience that is exhilarating as it is enriching. Perpetually washed by the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal, Orissa lies on the east coast of India with a 482km long coastal stretch. It will be a treat for the readers to visit Orissa beaches to enjoy and know that Bay of Bengal in Orissa welcomes them with highest waves in the world with least amount of salt content. It means that as tourist you can have prolonged hours of sea bath with enjoying nature and its bountiness. Here you may have the feel of the great resilience power of the sea.

### **WHERE TO VISIT**

Orissa has a rich tradition of classical dance, music, silverware, handicrafts and sculpture. The three great temple towns of Bhubaneswar, Puri, and Konark constitute, like Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, a "Golden Triangle", but here with the emphasis strongly on temples- temples of the most glorious and stunning kind. Bhubaneswar is the capital of Orissa and the temple city of India. 7,000 temples once ranged around the sacred Bindusagar Lake in old Bhubaneswar, about 500 of them are still standing. The great Lingaraja Temple dedicated to the Lord Shiva is the largest of these.

On the coast, lies Puri, one of the four holiest cities in India and now also being developed as a beach resort; relax in the refreshing sea after wondering at the famous 12<sup>th</sup> century Jagannath Temple, the home of Lord Jagannath, the Lord of the World, "the Formless God". Many travelers try to be in Puri around June or July, when it is possible to join in one of India's greatest festivals, the spectacular Rath Yatra or "Car" Festival in which images of the deity is drawn on their massive wooden chariots. The sun temple of Konark marks the pinnacle of a great Kalinga achievement in temple architecture. It was built as a chariot for the Sun God, complete with wheels and horses. The sculpture is among the most stupendous in India. Don't forget to catch a glimpse of the Irrawady dolphins and the migratory birds in the Chilika Lake or relax with the friendly people in the little beach resort of Gopalpur -on- sea. Also check out the Similipal and Nandakanan sanctuaries for White Bengal Tigers and the Udaygiri caves.

## **WHAT TO BUY**

Shopping is a joy in Orissa. You don't look there for what the modern industry can give you, but for unique and exquisite handicrafts created with great dexterity and skill. The handicrafts of Orissa include silver filigree, horn work, folk paintings, metal ware, appliqué work, stoneware, silk and cotton handloom etc.

## **Do U know?**

1. Another expression of Oriya culture is in the form of a dance, what is it?
2. What are the folk paintings of Orissa known as?
3. Name the king under whom was the famous Black Pagoda constructed?
4. Asia's largest dam Hirakud is situated on which river?
5. Who is the Architect of the capital city of Orissa?

## **Answers for Quiz**

- |                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Oddissi Dance              | 2. Madhubani   |
| 3. Raja Narasimha Langula Dev | 4. R. Mahanadi |
| 5. Job Charnok                |                |

## **WEST BENGAL**

West Bengal, the cultural center of India and the birthplace of three Nobel Laureates has been rapidly growing acquiring a life & vibrancy of its own. The largest city of India - Kolkatta, is the capital of Bengal.

## **WHERE TO VISIT**

Kolkatta is a city, which leaves no one indifferent. Fascinating effervescent teeming with light, people, and culture. The impact can be a shock at first, the rickshaws, brightly painted lorries, double decker busses, trains, underground railways, the noise and color of new market, tempting Rasogulla and varieties of fish preparation, the bustle of chords. But soon unable impressions will sent them out. Attraction of Calcutta are the Indian museum, the huge white Victoria Memorial, the octherlony monument and the head quarter of Rama Krishna Mission, beautiful beauty of Belur Math and across the river, Botanical Gardens (with a 200 yrs old Banyan tree, reputedly largest in the world) and Kali Temples of Dakshineswar.

## **The magic of Joy Train**

Those who do not wish to fly, try taking a train to Darjeeling from Kolkatta. It is the one of the greatest journeys of the world. It commands a stunning view of Kanchenjunga and the sunrise which breaks over the mountains is one of the most beautiful on earth. It is also the home of celebrated Sherpa Tenzing and Head Quarters of the Indian Mountaineering Institute.



## WHAT MORE?

The theatre is popular for both amateur and professional performances and is quite sophisticated. Traditional open-air performances are still popular in the countryside. Rabindra Sadan and theatre -cum- concert hall houses Nandan- the dream child of Satyajit Roy for international film shows.

Shanti Niketan - The Shanti Niketan or the abode of peace is the name chosen by Nobel Laureate R.N.Tagore for the site of Viswa Bharti University- a university conceived as a place where the whole world meets. Founded on idealism is has a district atmosphere and has classes conducted under the shade of trees. There are facilities for the study of comparative religion, philosophy, Chinese and Indian classes and the fine art. There is a museum and art gallery within the complex where Tagore lived. The University is open to visitors in the afternoon (On Tuesday can be visited in the morning and Wednesday it is completely closed.)

With prior permission one can also visit Mother Teresa's home for the destitute and dying called Nirmal Hriday.

### Do you know?

1. The most important festival celebrated by the natives of West Bengal?
2. Who was the founder of Calcutta?
3. Which is known as the "Sorrow of Bengal"?
4. What was the capital of West Bengal during the region of Nawab Siraj-ud-dulla?
5. Where is the Asia's biggest Marine Aquarium situated?

### Answers for Quiz

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Durga Pooja | 2.             |
| 3. R. Damodar  | 4. Murshidabad |
| 5. Kolkatta    |                |

Angelina Manjit  
IInd Yr B.A.History+Tourism

# **FLYING HIGH**

## **INDIAN AIRLINES**

### **THE HISTORY**

In 1953, a new dream took shape - to air link the vast South Asian subcontinent by a single, modern and efficient airline. The airline was Indian Airlines. Today, Indian Airlines, together with its fully owned subsidiary Alliance Air, is one of the largest regional airline systems in Asia with a fleet of 62 aircraft (4 wide bodied Airbus A300s, 41 fly-by-wire Airbus A320s, 11 Boeing 737s, 2 Domier D-228 aircraft and 4 ATR-42).

Indian Airlines has been setting the standards for civil aviation in India since its inception in 1953. It has many firsts to its credit, including introduction of the wide-bodied A300 aircraft on the domestic network, the fly-by-wire A320, Domestic Shuttle Service, Walk-in Flights and Flexi-fares. Its unique orange and white logo emblazoned on the tails of all its aircraft is perhaps the most widely recognized Indian brand symbol that has over the years become synonymous with service, efficiency and reliability.

The airlines network spans from Kuwait in the west to Singapore in the East and covers 75 destinations - 57 within India and 20 abroad. The Indian Airlines international network covers Kuwait, Oman, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain in West Asia, Thailand, Singapore, Yangoon and Malaysia in South East Asia and Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Maldives in the South Asian sub-continent.

Indian Airlines is presently fully owned by the Government of India and has total staff strength of around 18562 employees. Its annual turnover, together with that of its subsidiary Alliance Air, is well over Rs.4000 crores (around US\$ 1 billion).

Indian Airlines flight operations centre around its four main hubs- the main metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai. Together with its subsidiary Alliance Air Indian Airlines carries a total of over 7.5 million passengers annually.

## **JET AIRWAYS**

Welcome aboard Jet Airways, India's most preferred airline. When you fly with Jet, you can be sure that you will receive the finest service from the time you book your ticket to the time you leave the airport. The rapid expansion of our route network has earned us the prestigious Air Transport World Award 2001 for Market Development Jet Airways has also won the prestigious H&FS award for the domestic airline for the year 2001. We also pride ourselves in having the youngest fleet of aircrafts in India, consisting of the modern Airbus 340-300E, Boeing 737-400/700/800/900 and the ATR 72-500. We strive to provide service of the highest standard to our customers, both on ground and in-flight. Jet Airways is proud that we are one of the few airlines in the world to receive the ISO 9001 certification for our in-flight services.

From where it all began the first take-off on May 5, 1993 till date. Find out everything you want to know about India's best airline.

The Code of Conduct has been adopted by Jet Airways (India) Limited to comply with the applicable rules of the Stock Exchange where securities of the Company are listed i.e. The Stock Exchange, Mumbai and National Stock Exchange of India Limited.

The principal duty of the Board of Directors, along with management, is to ensure that the Company is well managed in the interests of its shareholders. The Board of Directors plays the central role in the Company's governance. It is the Company's decision-making authority on all matters except

those reserved to shareholders or delegated to the management. The Board of Directors is not expected to assume an active role in the day-to-day management of the Company.

**The COMMUNITY SERVICES** at Jet Airways, there is equal emphasis on both commercial success and social responsibility. From 1997, we have raised a considerable amount of money for 'Save the Children India', an NGO working for underprivileged children. We also extended our hand to significantly help in the relief operations at Bhuj. The 'Flight of Fantasy' organized every year gives underprivileged children a chance to experience the joy of flying. Jet Airways recently sponsored a painting competition for children from Mobile Crèches, organized by CRY.

We take this responsibility very seriously and are happy to be able to make a difference to the lives of the less fortunate and those in need.

Jet Airways Operates A Flight of Fantasy for Underprivileged Children on Children's Day November 14, 2004.

- Fantasy Flight - Mumbai - November 14, 2003
- Fantasy Flight - Mumbai - November 09, 2002
- Flight of Fantasy - Mumbai - September 28, 2002
- Dream Flight - Chennai - November 14, 2000
- Flight of Fantasy - Cochin - March 27, 1999

Jet Airways is the first airline in India to receive the World Travel Market Global Award, the World's premier global travel event in London. We have also won the H&FS Domestic Airline of the Year Award four times, with the latest award in 2001. And Citibank Diners Club has chosen us as India's best domestic airline for our excellence in service.

## AIR DECCAN

AIR DECCAN is a unit of Deccan Aviation Private Limited, India's largest private heli-charter Company. Formed in 1995, Deccan Aviation Private Limited has carved a niche for itself in the Indian aviation scene with its reputation for providing speedy and reliable heli-services for company charters, tourism, medical evacuation, offshore logistics and a host of other services.

Deccan Air is a no-frills discount airline, which uses Bangalore, as it's main hub. While their schedule is not yet extensive, they are adding new flights and acquiring some new, larger, planes to service major runs (at present they use smaller turbo-props). The big deal is that their fares are \*really\* good and not restricted to 'residents only' as are the rupee fares and special deals on Jet, IA, and Sahara.

For tourists those prices are less than half the regular fares of 'the other guys'.

Air Deccan commenced operation with a vision to bridge the divide with those who fly & those who do not by introducing airfares that are lowest in the market place.

The Passenger Services in Air Deccan are well managed to handle the passengers' queries, provide special assistance and sort out any problem faced by passengers in connection with their travel on Air Deccan.

The Services provided IN-FLIGHT are as per Government of India regulations, and also to provide an unpolluted environment, smoking is not permitted on any Air Deccan flight. Neither is the serving and consumption of alcohol permitted on any Air Deccan Flight. On all Air Deccan flights snacks and soft drinks are available for sale to passengers.

Suggestion Cards are available on Air Deccan Flights to obtain suggestions and comments from customers in our endeavor to improve our services. Air Deccan's in-flight magazine "Simplify" is available on board for in-flight reading.

## **AIR SAHARA**

Air Sahara has introduced direct connecting flights from Mumbai, Delhi and Lucknow to various destinations across India.

In-flight services are just wonderful. Food is good. Bid and win is a wonderful way of mixing business and passenger entertainment. Why don't you start helicopter services for areas where there is no airport as yet? Take Gangtok, for example. A three hour long car ride to the capital. It is adventure for tourists, but a nightmare for locals. Or, why not ask Airport Authority of India to build a runway where you can land your passenger airplanes. Keep the fares low. Budget airlines will be a sure hit.

## **KING FISHER AIRLINES**

Welcome aboard an experience like you've never had before. The Kingfisher Class experience aims to take air travel beyond just getting from here to there. Every individual trained and every procedure designed to delight you in a way you've never really expected from an airline. Efficient yet Warm. Stylish yet Comfortable. And convenience in-built at every step. In short, it's the best of all possible airline worlds. In one exhilarating Kingfisher Class experience that begins well before you step onto the Furliner, and continues well after you reach your destination.

"The Vision Kingfisher Airlines family will consistently deliver a safe, value-based and enjoyable travel experience to all our guests".

## **Safety**

This is our overriding value. In our line of business, there is no compromise.

## **Service**

We are all in the hospitality business; we must always seek to serve our guests and gain their trust, goodwill and loyalty.

## **Careers**

Kingfisher Airlines offers great career opportunities both in air and on the ground. If you think you have the flight experience and the right attitude, just click on the jobs mentioned below and send in your resume to us.

There are more career openings coming soon. Just keep checking in ..., it could just be the beginning of an exciting phase in your life.

**WORK DONE BY**  
04/HS/39 & 04/HS/28

## **HOLIDAY SPOTS IN SOUTH INDIA**

It is a well-known fact that tourism is the world's fastest growing industry. India draws a substantial amount of revenue from its tourism earnings. Apart from the generally well-known spots like the Taj Mahal, the palaces of Rajasthan, the backwaters of Kerala, etc, there are many other spots around India, which prove to be major tourist attractions. This article looks at a few spots in South India.

Of all the spots in South India, **Kodaikanal** is definitely the most well known. Situated among the Pali hills, with wooded slopes, mighty rocks and enchanting waterfalls, it is undoubtedly a beautiful place, also renowned for its educational institutions.

The prime attractions of 'Kodi' are the Berinjiam Lake, star shaped and among the most beautiful in South India; Palani Hills where trekking is a major sport and offering beautiful scenery; and also the Summer festivals where cultural programs, adventure sports, boat races, flower and fruit shows make a memorable occasion. Shopping and golfing are major crowd pullers.

**Wayanad**, situated in Kerala is blessed with pleasant weather and natural scenic beauty, making it an ideal tourist spot. Its main attractions are the Wildlife Sanctuary, Bansura dam- the largest earth dam in India renowned for its traditional Keralite architecture, Sentinel Rock fall-a beautiful waterfall and an ideal spot for rock climbing and the Thusharagiri waterfalls. The Thirunelli festival is a two-day festival celebrated in April that brings out Keralite tradition at its best.

Well-connected by rail, it is a beautiful holiday destination.

The **Nilgiris**- or Blue Mountains derive its charm from nature, with beautiful rivers, valleys and waterfalls.



This spot is ideal for trekking with plenty of natural hills, making each trip full of thrill, excitement and adventure.

**Ooty**, the headquarters of the Nilgiri hills has been South India's most frequently visited tourist spot from time immemorial.

A visit to the tea plantations is a must do on every trip. Shopping and the annual Flower Show at Ooty are also major crowd pullers.

**Anantagiri Hills**, situated in Andhra Pradesh is also a holiday spot blessed with scenic beauty-ravines, gorges and waterfalls are breathtaking. It is considered more of a health station for people to relax and reduce stress.

The Borra Caves, over a million years old are an excursion option here. This place is reached by bus from Hyderabad.

Araku Valley is also worth visiting for its beautiful coffee plantations.

These are the choicest spots for tourism in South India and are largely responsible for the revenue generated by the South tourism industry. Besides natural beauty, excellent hospitality services and a well-connected transport network are drawing many people down South.

- N. RAJALAKSHMI  
II B.A.HISTORY

# INDIA'S TIMELESS HERITAGE

## Musical Heritage of India

"Music knows no boundaries" so says a popular proverb and perhaps no country symbolizes this fact better than India does. India is not only the land where people of different faiths and religions live in harmony but it is also the land where diverse musical notes and strings produce riveting symphony.

Musical heritage tour of India is a unique kind of experience that takes one beyond the obvious. Musical heritage of India touches the inner core of a tourists' heart and takes them to a higher plane. But it takes just a few notes of the Sitar or Santoor to sway one. India has a musical heritage that believes in touching the soul.

Indians seem to have an uncanny knack for music and one could find music for every occasion in India. Be it a child birth, wedding, or death, music is an important part of the Indian way of life. So much so, the musicians here have different ragas for different times of the day. One could even listen to *raga Megh Malhar* especially sung to please the Rain Gods and *raga Deepak* to light the lamps. There is an interesting tale associated with these ragas, it is said that during the reign of Akbar, his famous court musician Tansen was believed to have lit lamps by singing the *raga Deepak* and brought the rain showers by singing *raga MeghMaltar*.

Some of the music festivals that take place every year include Sangeet Natak Akademi's festival, New Delhi, Tansen Festival, Gwalior, Sur-Sringar Festival, Bombay, Tyagaraja Festival, Tiruvayyaru, near Tanjavur and Shanmukhananda Music, Dance and Drama Festival, Bombay. Coincide your tour to India with some of these festivals and enjoy the musical heritage of India with Heritage in India.

## **Art, Crafts and Sculpture in India**

India is endowed with a rich cultural legacy of art and architecture. The numerous beautiful temples and other monuments bear testimony to the rich Indian cultural heritage of art and architecture. The Ajanta and Ellora caves in Maharashtra, Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu and the Taj Mahal in Agra are some of the beautiful monuments that reflect the rich architectural heritage of India. Indian Handicraft is another form of art that has made a mark among tourists in India. Heritage tour of India is one of the best ways to discover the Indian arts and crafts.

Indian art and craft has a number of different aspects to it. These aspects of Indian art and craft vary from region to region. The art and crafts of India includes painting, sculptures and handicrafts. Painting as an art form was quite popular during ancient times and the Ajanta Ellora caves and Khajuraho temples are classic examples of this form in ancient times. Indian paintings can be divided into two main categories as the murals and miniatures. Murals are referred to large works of art on the walls and solid structures while miniature paintings are the works of art executed on a small scale like on the paper or cloth. Rajasthani and Mughal paintings are the two examples of miniature painting

Handicraft is another feature of the rich Indian art. There are a number of handicraft items that one can shop when on a tour to India. Some of the handicrafts items that are popular in India are carpets, marble table tops, hand made leather items and hand block printed items, blue pottery, semi-precious stones and Kundan jewellery.

## **Festivals of India**

No matter which time of the year you tour India, there is always one or the other festival being celebrated in some corner of the country. In fact festive season is the best time

to tour India. India is the land of different faiths and religions and that is exactly what adds variety to Indian festivals, there are festivals to celebrate a good harvest, welcome a season, celebrate a historical or mythical event. Besides, India has a few national festivals like the Independence Day and Republic Day that are a treat to watch.

Gaiety, color, enthusiasm and feast are what define festivals in India. In fact festive occasions are best time to travel and make merry. India has a number of festivals that are celebrated through out the year. If Lohri celebrates the end of cold days and chilly nights in January, Holi in March-April is the time to color your loved ones with different kinds of colors. These two festivals are mostly celebrated in North India.

January is also the time to see virtually entire India converge at New Delhi, the capital of India for republic day celebrations. The Republic Day celebration on the 26th of January is a treat to watch. The Republic Day parade is in fact the best way to get a glimpse of the rich cultural diversity of India without even traveling to remote corners of India. The marching bands, soldiers on caparisoned camels and on foot, school children and folk artists present a colourful extravaganza. Beating the Retreat ceremony brings down curtains on the Republic Day celebrations two days after the Republic Day is yet another opportunity to enjoy melodious tunes played by the Armed forces band. The republic day celebrations are not confined to the capital only but are marked in all parts of the country. The other national festival-Independence Day on the 15th August is also celebrated in all parts of the country.

India has a number of festivals that are celebrated in different parts of the country. If Diwali, Dusshera and Holi are the main festivals celebrated in North India, South India celebrates Onam and Pongal. Apart from these popular festivals there are other important festivals that draw tourists from across India and abroad. Discover the land of myriad culture on heritage tour of India with Heritage in India.

## Customs and Rituals in India

India is a melting pot of different faiths and religions. The diverse culture of India makes it the most unique country in the world. Customs and rituals are an integral part of the Indian way of life. These customs and traditions traverse the boundary of religion, cast and creed. One gets a glimpse of the customs and rituals in India as soon as one is welcomed in traditional Indian style. 'Atithi Devo Bhava' is what inspires the hospitality business in India, which is what reflects the most popular custom of India. 'Atithi Devo Bhava' means that guest is God and should be treated like a deity. This is what is expressed in welcoming a guest with a garland and putting vermilion on the forehead of the guest. Even the Tourism Ministry, Government of India has launched the 'Atithi Devo Bhava' campaign to make people aware of India's rich cultural heritage and the philosophy of treating a tourist like God. Right from the birth to death, there is hardly any occasion that does not have an elaborate ceremony. Soon after the birth of a child, an elaborate ceremony to name the child takes place, which is marked by chanting of slokas and singing of hymns. Weddings are grand affairs in India, as they follow various customs and rituals. So much so, many foreigners come to India to marry in Indian style. Rajasthan is the place that is most popular for royal weddings in India. Even cremation is done according to rituals after one passes away. Taking a heritage tour to India is one of the best ways to know more about the fascinating aspects of Indian customs and rituals. Festivals are other important occasions when one can see different customs and rituals followed by people.

## Indian Cuisine

Spices are the very essence of Indian cuisine and these colorful ingredients are what bind the rich Indian culinary tradition. Like Indian culture, Indian cuisine has also been influenced by the outside invasions on India. These invasions not only brought

art and architecture and other customs and beliefs, but also food habits of the invaders. For example if Mughlai cuisine traces its origin to the Mughals, the Goan cuisine is influenced by the Portuguese and it is true for other cuisine of India as well. The cuisine show the shades of East Asian cuisine. On the coasts of India, one finds liberal use of fish and coconuts in cooking. If you are on a tour of the western states of India particularly in Gujarat and Rajasthan, you may find a variety of pulses or curry. The heritage tour of India is perhaps the perfect way to savour the taste of India. No tour to India is complete without savouring the flavours of India. So, whichever part of the country you travel, you will find a cuisine or delicacy exclusive to the region. If you are in the northern parts of the country, Mughlai cuisine is worth checking out. Some of the Mughlai dishes you can check out include tandoori chicken, seekh Kebab and tandoori fish. Mughlai food is very rich and uses a lot of ghee, curd, cream and crushed nuts. On the southern side of India, one gets a variety of gourmet dishes that differ from state to state. Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh is popular for its biryanis while Kerala is known its dosas, uttpams idlis and vadas. Sambhar is another popular delicacy in South India particularly in Kerala. Kerala has also very unique way of serving meals; food in this coastal state is served on a banana leaf. Apart from the various well-known cuisine that one can taste, India has a variety of street food. The street food in India is not exclusive to one particular place or region. One can find rows of street vendors virtually anywhere in India serving sumptuous delicacies. Apart from the street food, every state has its own cuisine. If you are on a tour to Rajasthan, you can try Rajasthani cuisine. You go to any state, every state has its own way of cooking and serving its guests. Most Indian hotels serve different cuisine from different corners of India. Some of them even have speciality restaurants that serve the cuisine of a particular region.

Sherlyn Rayan  
II B.A. History

# **MEDICAL TOURISM A BOOMING INDUSTRY**

## **Introduction**

Tourism in today's world is no more a luxury or mere sight seeing. Even the common man can attain the status of tourist. This has been made possible by the advances in the recent development in transportation and information technologies. Similarly the emphasis is gradually shifting from sight seeing to experiencing different cultures, life styles and environments. Thanks to the importance of innovativeness in tourism product development and marketing, tourism today has become more of knowledge based industry. Health has become more important so that people have started traveling to different places boosting economic in the form of medical tourism. It has grown in trend so fast that it is the fastest growing sector..

## **What is medical tourism?**

A patient will visit a destination where he will undergo medical treatment and along with that he will get a chance to see the place out there and pilgrim destination, as and when advised by the doctors. The whole thing will save him a lot of money also at the same time he gets to discover the places with best medical and travel facilities.

The tour operator and travel agent will co-ordinate the services with associate hospitals about patient/ patient representative pre-arrival, identifying and fixing up the required resource like relevant hospital/doctor, facilitate travel and stay and provide long term follow up advice.

## **CHOOSE INDIA AS A MEDICAL TOURIST;**

India has one of the best qualified professionals in each and

every field, and this fact has now been realized the world over. Regarding medical facilities India has the most competent doctors and world class medical facilities. With most competitive charges for treatment, India is a very lucrative destination for people wanting to undergo treatment of certain medical problems which do not require immediate emergency treatment.

Although unlike the west, India has to go a long way in emphasizing utmost importance to healthcare amongst its masses, it has been attracting patients from neighboring countries. The reason primarily is abundance of skilled and highly specialized Indian doctors and speciality hospitals with state-of-art technology at cheaper cost. Britain's National Health Service patients e.g. waiting in long queues for surgery can get instant treatment in quality Indian hospitals at one-eight of the cost.

## **SOME OF INDIA'S HOSPITAL PACKAGES**

\* ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE - DELHI  
Aiim's contribution in the fields of medical education, research and specialized treatment is widely acknowledged.

## **APOLLO HOSPITAL - DELHI**

The Apollo heart hospitals have eight state of the art cath labs. Plain balloon angioplasty, directional coronary arthectomy, rotablatory coronary artery stenting.

## **CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE**

The Christian medical college and hospital, vellore occupies a prominent place among medical institutions in India and in the world, as a 1700 beds multi campus complex that is a vital, diverse, interdenominational community.



## **APOLLO CANCER HOSPITAL CHENNAI**

Apollo cancer hospital, Chennai is the first hospital in the country to be awarded the ISO 9002 certificate.

**TSETAN**  
**04/HS/24**

**Photo Features:  
Activities 2004-05**



**BC To AD 2005 Inaugural Programmes  
Chief Guest R Sekhar I.P.S.**



**Winners BC To AD 2005 New College**

Sri Mata Jyoti's College (Autonomous) Chennai,  
Dist. Palaniyam  
Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture



**Indira Gandhi Endowment  
Lecture Chief Guest  
Dr. Richard Haynes**



**Inter-Collegiate Debate on National Security**

UGC Sponsored  
**VALEDICTORY**  
Sri Mata Jyoti's College (Autonomous) Chennai,  
Dist. Palaniyam



**1<sup>st</sup> Batch of Students for the  
UGC Sponsored Travel and  
Tourism Course**



**III rd Year trip - To Delhi, Agra Kulu-Manali**



**Sindhu Memorial Inter Collegiate  
Bharatanatyam Competition**

**Outgoing Batch 2004 - 2005**

**ST. CLARE CENTRE**



## **MIGRATING FOR HEALTH**

Patients going to a different country for either urgent or elective medical procedure-is fast becoming a worldwide, multibillion-dollar industry.

Many medical tourists from the United States are seeking treatment at a quarter or some times even at 10<sup>th</sup> of the cost at home.

Medical tourism is actually 1000yrs old. Countries like Cuba, Hungary, India, Israel, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore are taking steps to promote medical tourism. Countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan etc. do not have proper medical facilities.

With the growth of medical related travel and aggressive marketing, Bangkok has become a center for the medical tourist. Bangkok's international medical center offers service in 26 languages.

India is considered as the leading country in promoting medical tourism, government and private sector in India estimates that medical tourism could bring between \$1 billion and \$2 billion US dollars into the country by 2012. Reports show that medical tourism is growing by 30% a year.

India's top rated education system is not only churning out computer programme and engineers but also estimated 20,000 to 30,000 doctors and nurses every year.

According to CII (Confederation of Indian industry) with yoga, meditation ayurveda, allopathy and other system of medicines in India offers a unique basket of services to an individual. Such is difficult to imagine in the other countries therefore India has a definite advantage in increase of medical tourism.

CII along with Indian health care federation (IHCF) is working with tour operators to promote attractive packages for medical

tourism. India was able to attract appx.15,00,000 patients to the country. CII has also suggested that the government should encourage medical tourism by increasing air transport, connectively linking major cities like Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bangalore.

If India develops its infrastructure to international standards, it will be able to benefit from the medical sector and more over help the world to access the international medical service.

**E. Pranitha**  
04/HS/17

## MAGIC OF NORTH INDIA

The Indian soil has been the cradle of one of the greatest civilization in the world such as the Harappan or Indus civilization. It has also witnessed great moments of human history such as the coming of Aryans, Vedic age and the rise and fall of the great empires like Mauryas, the coming of the Muslims and the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate and Mughal Dynasty followed by the oppressive colonial rule. India overthrew the colonial powers in 1947. Great Spiritual Minds and great religions created an amazing land that has space for everyone and intermingling of different cultures and amazing architecture.

Welcome to the golden circuit tour of north India. The northern Indian holidays you will cherish for the rest of your life. If you are to take a pick from the Taj Mahal, the palace of Jaipur or the monuments of Delhi as the backdrop for your favorite photograph, which one will, you pick. Well for a Northern India visit we offer you the best tourist Destinations.

The most important tourist centers in the state is Amritsar with its golden temple. This temple is considered to be the holiest of all the pilgrimages of Sikhism. Patiala is famous for its healthy food, loving people, and wonderful parandaas.

Srinagar, the state capital of Jammu and Kashmir is the most famous tourists destination in the state. An ancient city there are many attractions that can attract even the most unwilling of tourists to this magical land.

Surely the gods live here, this is no place for men. Located in the charming Kullu valley in Himachal Pradesh and the set amongst the lower reaches of the mighty Himalayas, the small town of the Kullu is famous for its temples, apple orchards and the annual Dussehra festival. Manali is extremely popular with tourists for its lavish display of unspoilt natural beauty. Rich in



its scenic splendor, Manali draws a good number of tourists from within the country and abroad every year.

The Taj at Agra is, of course, the best place to start with. This super specimen of Mughal architecture is a veritable poetry in stone constructed. Located 40km away is Fatehpur Sikri, built by Akbar. There is the temple of Kaushik Devi on the Kashyap hill. The Corbett National Park situated in a region between the Himalayan and Shivalik ranges on both the banks of Ramganga in northern Uttar Pradesh. It is a Prominent center of attraction for Indian and foreign tourists alike. It has the distinction of being the first National Park in India

Rajasthan's almost 80% of the places are regarded as the places of tourist interest. Old city of Jaipur, capital to the state of Rajasthan, painted Pink that gives a magical glow to the city. The 250 year old city of Jaipur, also known as the pink city has a central museum, najar, garh fort, jaigarh fort, hamber Albert Museum, Sisodia Rani Park, Lakshmi Narayan Temple, and Rambagh Palace.

The pink city is one of the finest centres in the entire region for beautiful prints especially on cotton fabrics and as perhaps Indian's largest center of semi precious gems and stones.

It is situated in the heart of the desert of Rajasthan; Ajmer is a blend of sufi culture and Hindu religion. Ajmer has always been a coveted and strategic place for the Rajputs, the Mughals and the Marathas. The annual Urs at Dargah of khwaja Moinuddin chishti is held on an grand scale and attracts pilgrims from all over the world irrespective of their caste and religion.

At the foot of a barren hill, is situated India. It's the most important pilgrimage center for people from all faiths. It is the splendid tomb of the Sufi saint. The shrine is next only to Mecca or medina for the Muslims of Asia. Emperor Akbar used to make a pilgrimage to this Dargah from Agra once in a year.

One can purchase here amazing old silver jewellery with designs of a totally different era. The annual Urs gives an opportunity to bargain for some of the intriguing and colorful items of the region.

The only hill station in Rajasthan, Mount-Abu huddles among the rocks on 1220m granite table mountains at the far southwestern end of the Aravalli hills. It is built around a lake and is surrounded by forested hills. Mount Abu is also well known for the famous Dilwara temples and many more archaeological remains. There are interesting treks and picnic spots, romantic royal retreats of the various families of bygone Rajputana. The scenic landscapes include gigantic blocks of rocks in wired shapes, an array of trees, flowering shrubs, lovely lakes and the cool climate much in contrast to the arid environs of the state.

Dal Lake, Nishat bagh, Shalimar Bagh and Chasme Shabi are some of the best-known tourist spots in Srinagar. However the spirit of holiness permeates through the entire city, so much so that Jammu is also known as 'the city of temples'.

Based on the above we find that North India is one of diverse beauty and immense historical background, making it one of the favorite locations for tourists from all around the world.

**Natasha Mary Dubier**  
04/HS/08

## **PEOPLE OF INDIA**

In a country as diverse and complex as India, it is not surprising to find that people here reflect the rich glories of the past, the culture, traditions, values, habits and food that will always remain truly Indian according to 5000yrs of recorded history. India has been invaded by armies, traders who brought with them their own habits, faith, practices and observances that have all contributed to the rich texture of Indian life and living.

The family values continue to exist in Indian families. Men are still considered the head of the family. Women will always serve her husband. Parents are looked upon with respect and regard. The parents financially support children.

Indians believe in sharing happiness and sorrow. A festival or a celebration is never constrained to a family or a home. A lot of festivals like diwali, holi, id, Christmas, Mahaveer Jayanthi are all celebrated with family, neighbours and friends.

Indians speak different languages; there are eighteen major languages. Hindi spoken by majority of the population is the national language. English has also been retained as a language for official communication.

India has many religions like Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism and Christianity. The essence of Hindu faith is embodied in the lord's song, the Bhagavad gita. India today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Muslim country in the world, next only to Indonesia. Christians of several denominations practice their faith freely.

Indian hospitality is legendary. Each one is treated with the utmost consideration. Each Indian extends more than his hand to a visitor. As soon as the guest arrives, every amenity is offered. Indian people are extremely willing to provide to their guest.

I truly believe that the warmth of Indian hospitality is a direct reflection of the warmth of Indian people. Indians stand united in every single way. They follow the saying "United we stand divided we fall".

**Creena Joachim**  
04\HS\07

## ON THE PILGRIM'S TRAIL

The Portuguese are the one's who made there head Quarter's in Goa. During that time the Portuguese extended their support to Jesuits in order to convert the local people to Catholic religion, group of Portuguese soldiers having heard of the "TOMB OF ST. THOMAS" at Mylapore, decided to from a settlement in this reign in the year 1521. The Portuguese built a small chapel over the tomb of St. Thomas. They got financial help from the pope to built a large church around the tomb of St. Thomas. Gradually more and more Portuguese came and settled in this region and renamed the place as "SANTHOME" which means " THE TOWN OF ST. THOMAS". And thus many people came to know about the church and many European and other people visited this church. This church also has the tombstones of Bishop's.

This church is in Goa. It's named after the tomb of St. Francis Xavier is kept. St. Francis Xavier tomb which is still here undecayed. So many people visit this church often and St. Francis Xavier tomb is shown to the people. It is said that if people who visit him will leave a paper and pen on his body and the will return back the day after, St. Francis Xavier would have written some message for the particular person. During that time a woman who had heard this message, went to Goa, and while kissing his hand (St. Francis Xavier), she cut the thumb of St. Francis Xavier.

This is the oldest Anglican Church in Asia. The imposing white edifice was consecrated in 1679 AD; and continues to be an important place of worship. It's treasures are the altar piece, a large painting of the last supper, a 1660 bible and silver plates. Visitors to St. Mary's Church will be reminded of the men who built Madras (Chennai) and also of the institutions they gave to the city. This Church, often described as the Westminster Abbey of the East, is the oldest British building in Chennai.

## **The Structure and the Interiors**

The original building, which William Dixon built and Edward Fowle embellished, was a rectangular structure in brick and polished in lime, with a bombproof, curved roof. Later additions to the building include the Sanctuary, Steeple (1710), Tower (1701) and the Vestry. The Spire to the Church, designed by Colonel Gent was added in 1795. The interior of the Church has beautiful wooden work and stained glass arches. In 1985, artisans, from Karaikudi, undertook a major restoration work. St. Mary's Church was built largely from personal donations. Excavations for the Church building began in the Fort St. George premises, during Governor Streynsham's tenure and its construction was completed in 1679. The Church was christened St. Mary's as its foundation was laid on the Annunciation day of the Virgin Mary (the feast observed by Christians to mark the day when Mary was told of God's plan that she would be Mother of Jesus). The tombstones, memorial tablets on the six detached pillars and the Church Records bring back old memories. It also has the earliest register of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials in the country. The Visitors Book, dating from 1903-1947, is also an interesting piece from the past.

## **Interesting Facts**

St. Mary's started, as a Church of the first congregation, then became the Governors congregation. Later it became a Garrison Church and today it remains a monument protected by the Archaeological Survey Of India. Rev. Richard Portman was the first Chaplain of the Church. He took charge on 28th October 1679. The French converted it into a military dormitory, in 1746, after the occupation of Fort St. George. In 1877 the Princess of Tanjore presented the altar rails to the Church. The first marriage to be celebrated here was that of Elihu Yale and Catherine Hynmers on November 4th 1680. St. Mary's Church started the first organised charity in Madras (Chennai) and also ran the first hospital in India on western lines (1664) St. Mary's

Church conjures up images of the British era. Names of bygone Englishmen are engraved on the pillars. Robert Clive also married in this church.

St. Andrew's Church, which also called 'The Queen of Scottish Churches in the East' is located on Poonamallee High Road in Chennai. This church is considered to be the most beautiful neo-classical church in India. St. Andrew's Church is a magnificent building lying almost in the middle of a large, spacious compound - which provides a backdrop of trees and greenery and presents a lovely profile of Georgian architecture in the midst of mundane business life.

Nearly one hundred and seventy five years ago, the Kirk steeple rose up majestically, providing spiritual solace for the early Scottish community in Madras, Tamil Nadu, India. Conceived and executed by Major Thomas Fort de Havilland and Colonel James Caldwell, the Kirk is modelled along the lines of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London. The church was consecrated in 1821 and since then, has been in the care of long line of devoted pastors.

## **A Captivating Architectural Structure**

The architectural details of the church are exquisite and fascinating. An arching dome colored with Lapis Lazuli crowns the remarkable circular interior. The dome represents a blue night-sky studded with golden stars. Adding to the splendour are sixteen fluted Corinthian columns that preserve its beauty and balance. An annular arch around it also supports the complex construction of the dome.

The superb artistry of exquisite mahogany woodwork is one of the Kirk's many charms and glories. The warm, rich and quiet hues of treasured stained glass at the altar are another. The colonnaded portico gives an impression of great strength and power, lending to the whole an awesome grandeur, reminiscent of Solomon's Temple.

## **The Traditional Music**

Another brilliant manifestation of the continuing vitality of the church is its great tradition of music. This has enormously enhanced the character and atmosphere, preparing people's hearts to listen to God's message. Enshrined in the memory of the congregation are the maestro's, the Late Victor Paranjothi and the Late Padma Shri Handel Manuel.

St. Andrew's Church a creation of the British Raj in India, is now a part of India's National Heritage. Though the structure has been described as "the Noblest Christian Edifice in Hindustan (India)", it means so much more to the people who worship in it and to various others who derive comfort and relief from it.

## **Activities At The Church**

St Andrew's has also been a hub of activity that has entered a decisive phase of reaching out to the poor and deprived of society, considering community development as a vital part of Christian worship and transforming lives in many households.

Various projects have been undertaken by the authorities of the Church like the Riber Memorial Day Care Centre and Community Development, the Asha Project among the developmentally disabled, the work among Leprosy patients, the Kosapur Tamil Church and Clinic, the work of Evangelism and the village project at Thirupalaivanam - have sought to help disadvantaged brethren.

Velankanni is located 12-km south of Nagapattinam, which is one of the most popular pilgrim spots in southern part of India. Velankanni is also called as the 'Mecca of Christians'. The shrine is dedicated to Our Lady of Health, the Madonna of Velankanni and it is located on the shore. This church in honour of Virgin Mary is popularly called as 'Sacred Arockia Madha Church' and is visited by people of all faiths and religions.



The church has an imposing facade with tall spires and the wings present the shape of a cross. In a niche in the altar is enshrined the statue of Our Lady of Health. Many bring with them small gold and silver replicas of parts of the body to donate to the church.

Velankanni is particularly crowded during the festival period in August-September. There is a small church museum, which has a display of the offerings made by those whose prayers were conceded.

## **Legend**

Wondrous legends surround the church-the most famous being that of the ship-wrecked Portuguese sailors, who in the 16th century, vowed to build a great shrine for the Virgin Mary, for saving their lives in a terrible storm. The greatest of miracles is the devotees in Myanmar, Malaya and South Africa reaching this church safely being picked and conveyed by fishermen. Such articles are exhibited in a hall here.

## **Festival**

The Velankanni festival attracts thousands, clad in orange robes to the sacred spot where the ship landed. Equally famous are the Virgin Mary's miraculous healing powers - earning for the church the name 'Lourdes of the East'.

## **THE CONVENT AND CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Location: Old Goa, Panjim, Goa

Present Church Was Built In: 1661

Architectural Style: Baroque & Manuline Style

To the west of the Se Cathedral, is the former palace of the Archbishop that connects the Se Cathedral to the Convent and Church of St. Francis of Assisi. The structure is built of laterite blocks and is lime-plastered. The church faces west and has a

nave with three chapels on side, a choir, two altars in the transept and a main altar. To the north of the main altar are a belfry and a sacristy. The convent, which forms an annexure to the church, now houses the Archaeological Museum.

## **The Architectural Grandeur**

The exterior of the Church is of the Tuscan Order while the main entrance is in Manuline style. The main altar is Baroque with Corinthian features. There are no aisles but only a nave, which is rib-vaulted. The internal buttress walls, separating the chapels and supporting the gallery on top, have frescoes showing intricate floral designs.

In a niche on the façade, stands a statue of our lady of miracles brought from Jaffna in Sri Lanka. A wooden statue of St. Francis of Assisi adorns a pedestal bearing the insignia of the Franciscans. A wooden pulpit, richly carved with floral designs is to the left as one enters. Beneath a ribbed vault with frescoes showing floral decorations, is the main altar, which is gilded and has a richly carved niche with a tabernacle supported by the four evangelists.

## **The Tabernacle**

The tabernacle was used for displaying the holy sacrament. Above the tabernacle in the main altar, is a large statue of St. Francis of Assisi and an equally large statue of Jesus on the cross. Beneath the two figures are inscribed the three vows of the Saint - poverty, humility and obedience. On either side of the main altar, in the nave, are beautiful large paintings on wood, depicting scenes from the life of St. Francis of Assai.

The scenes include:

- (I) An angel revealing to his mother that she would beget a child who would become a great saint
- (II) His birth

- (III) His first anointment
- (IV) Praying at the church of St. Dominica when Jesus commands him to support his kingdom.
- (V) The saint taking the oath and joining the Dominican order.
- (VI) His visit to the Sultan of Damascus.
- (VII) The saint showing his wounds to Pope Gregory IX. In the first floor on the western side, is the choir, which has amidst carved wooden panels, portrait from Franciscan hagiology.

## **The Origin**

The origin of this church and the attached convent can be traced to the humble beginnings made by eight Franciscan friars, who, on their arrival in 1517, secured from the then Governor a few houses that belonged to a deceased Thanadar. By their persistent efforts they constructed a small chapel with three altars and a choir. A church consecrated to the Holy Ghost was built in 1521 and was later pulled down and the present church was built on the same spot in 1661 retaining only the entrance of the earlier church.

## **THE PROFESSED HOUSE AND THE BASILICA OF BOM JESUS**

Location: Old Goa, Panjim, Goa

Completion Of Professed House: 1585

Rebuilt In: 1783

Architectural Style Of The Church: Renaissance & Baroque Style

### **The Professed House**

Immediately to the south of the main road is the Professed House, a two-storeyed laterite building covered with lime plaster. Despite the opposition, which the Jesuits faced, the building was completed in 1585. A part of the building was accidentally burnt down in 1663 and was rebuilt in 1783.

## **The Church Of Bom Jesus**

The Church of Bom Jesus is also of laterite; its exterior, excepting the façade, was lime plastered, which was subsequently removed. The roof was originally tiled. The church is cruciform on plan. The flying buttresses on the northern side of the church are recent additions. A single-storeyed structure adjoining the church on its southern wing connects it with the professed house.

The three-storeyed façade facing west, shows Ionic, Doric and Corinthian Orders, and a main entrance flanked by two smaller ones, each having Corinthian columns supporting a pediment. Within the church are two chapels, a main altar and a sacristy besides a choir at the entrance. A belfry is at the back.

### **A Blend Of Renaissance & Baroque Styles**

A projecting gallery, which was intended for the use of dignitaries on solemn occasions, runs along the two longer sides. Excepting the richly gilded altars, the interior of the church is remarkable for its simplicity. While the façade has the classical orders of the Renaissance, the altars are in Baroque style.

The church is called "Bom Jesus" meaning 'good Jesus' or 'infant Jesus' to whom it is dedicated. The façade has on it, at the top, the letters, "HIS" which are the first three letters of Jesus in Greek. The two columns supporting the choir bear slabs inscribed in Portuguese and Latin recording that the construction of this Church of Jesus was commenced on 24 November 1594 and Fr. Alexia de Menezes, the Archbishop of Goa and Primate of India consecrated it on 15 May 1605, when it was completed.

### **Within The Church's Domicile**

As one enters, beneath the choir, to the right is an altar of St. Anthony and to the left is an exceedingly well-carved wooden

statue of St. Francis Xavier. In the middle of the nave on the northern wall is the cenotaph of the benefactor of this church, Dom Jeronimo Mascarenhas, the Captain of Cochin, who died in 1593, bequeathing the resources out of which this church was built.

Opposite the cenotaph, projecting on the southern wall is a profusely carved wooden pulpit with a canopy on top. The pulpit has on its three sides the figures of Jesus, the four evangelists and four doctors of the church. The bottom of the pulpit depicts seven figures as though supporting it.

### **The Main Altar**

The main altar at the end of the nave is flanked by two decorated altars in the transept, one dedicated to Our Lady of Hope and the other to St. Michael. The richly gilded main altar has the figure of infant Jesus and above it is a large statue of St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the order of Jesuits, gazing with fervour at a medallion on which is inscribed "HIS". Above the medallion, the Holy trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are depicted. In the transept on the northern side is the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament.

### **The Chapel**

On the southern side in the transept is a chapel with gilded twisted columns and floral decorations of wood, where the sacred relics of the body of St. Francis Xavier are kept. The interior of this chapel is richly adorned with wooden carvings and paintings, depicting the scenes from the life of the Saint.

### **Depicting The Life Of St. Xavier Through Paintings**

On the southern wall are paintings in Italian School arranged in three rows. In the bottom row are two paintings showing St. Francis Xavier being received by certain Portuguese noblemen and his interview with the King of Bango in Japan. In the

middle row are three paintings respectively showing Xavier praying with fervour for cessation of plague that broke out in Manas Island, kissing the repulsive ulcer wound of a patient in a hospital at Venice and the Pope Paul III pronouncing his apostolic benediction on the eve of his departure to India.

In the top row are, three paintings of Xavier as a servant of a knight, his sad demise at Sancian, an island off the coast of China and the saint in ecstasy. There are also other paintings on the remaining three sides of the chapel, fixed in decorated wooden frames depicting the scenes from his life and the miracles performed by him. A painting, in oil on canvas, of ST. Francis Xavier is mounted on the top of the wooden door at the back of the chapel.

### **The Ornate Grandeur**

The rectangular base of the tomb is of jasper of reddish and purple colours decorated with carvings in white marble. Above the basement is another rectangular mass of slightly lesser dimensions having a plaque in bronze on each of its four sides depicting the scenes from the life of the saint, and two cherubs holding scrolls.

The four bronze plaques on the four sides show respectively, Xavier preaching to the people of Moluccas, holding aloft the Crucifix and baptizing the natives, swimming away to safety escaping from the wild natives of the island of Morro and dying in the island of Sancian off the coast of China. A beautiful silver statue is kept in front of the casket. The silver casket, which serves as a reliquary containing the sacred relics of the body of St. Francis Xavier, is exquisitely carved, and was once studded with precious stones. The casket is divided on each side into seven panels, each of which has two plates representing in relief important incidents in the life of the saint.

The Duke of Tuscany, Cosmas III, gifted the tomb. A famous

sculptor from Florence, Giovanni Batista Foggini, completed the tomb in ten years, and was brought to Goa where it was assembled in 1698.

## **The Altar**

Adjoining the Chapel of St. Francis Xavier is a corridor that leads to the sacristy, entered through an exquisitely carved wooden door. It is an oblong vaulted structure with an apse at the end. Alongside the walls are kept the portraits of various saints above a delicately carved chest of drawers. In the altar at the apse in an iron chest containing a golden rose blessed by the Pope Pius XII and gifted to this city in 1953. At the foot of the altar is the grave of the founder of the vestry, Balthazar da Veiga who died in 1659. A painting giving a fair idea as to the state of the body of St. Xavier about a hundred years ago is displayed near the altar.

## **THE ROYAL CHAPEL OF ST. ANTHONY**

Location: Old Goa, Panjim, Goa

Built In: 17th Century AD

To the west of the tower of St. Augustine is the Royal Chapel dedicated to St. Anthony, the national saint of Portugal and held in great veneration by the Portuguese. It was built in the beginning of the 17th century.

In 1835 the chapel was closed but opened again in 1894 when it was also renovated. It was inaugurated again in 1961 after a complete restoration done by the Portuguese Government.

**C.R. Nisha & Josephine**

04/HS/34 & 04/HS/06

# **TOURISM IN PONDICHERRY**

Tourism is the one of the most important features for our entertainment. Now a days people are giving importance to there leisure. The Government has also introduced tourism courses to develop and promote tourism. We are going to a beautiful city which is located 162 Kms away from Chennai i.e. Pondicherry.

## **BEAUTIFUL CITY**

Pondicherry is a beautiful city, we have Bay of Bengal on the east with good seashore, few lakes around Pondicherry, and there are also facilities available for boating. The beach has historical connection too.

## **PEACEFUL CITY**

For relaxation parks and ashrams are available, especially I would like to highlight Aurobindo ashram is situated on the eastern part of Pondicherry. It comprises of about 1500 members who have practiced Sadhana for evolution of another kind

## **RELIGIOUS CITY**

There are lots of monuments in Pondicherry such as temples, churches and mosques. In and around Pondicherry there are more than 300 temples including small and big churches and mosques having historical background. There are lots of festivals celebrated in Pondicherry like masi magma, willianur madha car festival, all soub day, international yoga festival etc.

## **COMMUNICABLE CITY**

It is located, 163 Kms south of Chennai. Government has arranged many special transports to Pondicherry. A newly constructed broad gauge way train schedule twice a day.



Pondicherry is a truly beautiful, peaceful, religious, communicable city. It is advisable to visit Pondicherry with family. There will be no doubt that it will be a truly enjoyable and a memorable trip.

**VEEVEETHA PRIYADARSHINI**  
04/HS/40

## **SOUL ENTITY ALWAYS**

If one day, you feel like crying  
Call me.....  
I don't promise that, I'll make you laugh  
But I can cry with you.....

If one day, you want to run away  
Don't be afraid to call me  
I don't promise to ask you to stop  
But I can run with you.....

If one day, you don't want to listen to anyone  
Call me.....  
I promise to be there with you  
And I promise to be very quiet.

But if one day you call me....  
And there is no answer come to see me,  
May be I need you.....?  
If ever I ignore you, I am sorry.

If I ever made you feel bad  
Or put you down  
If I ever thought I was better than you  
I am sorry.....  
But.....I love you don't ever forget that  
Through bad time and good  
I'll be there for you ....always

I am writing this because if TOMORROW NEVER COMES  
What if I never could say good bye  
Or give you a big hug  
What if I never get to say I am sorry  
Or that I love you.....  
*Because if TOMORROW NEVER COMES*

**S.Priydarshini**  
03/HS/43

*(Dedicated to all friends at Stella Maris)*

# **TOURISM ENVIRONMENT IN INDIA**

India is a large triangular shaped country in southern Asia, by the long sweep of the Himalayas in the north and protruding into the Indian Ocean in the south. It's bordered by Pakistan to the northwest, China, Nepal and Bhutan to the north, and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the east. Srilanka is a teardrop shaped island hanging from its southern tip. India covers a land area of about 3,287,000 sq km. India is the seventh largest country in the world.

Northern India contains the snow bound peaks and deep valleys of the Himalayas, and the vast gangetic plain, which separates the Himalayan region from the southern peninsula and stretches from the Arabian sea to the bay of Bengal. South of the plains, the land rises up into a triangular-shaped plateau known as the deccan. The plateau is bordered by the eastern and western ghats.

Wild life in India is often purported to have enjoyed a privileged and protected position thanks to the religious ideals and sentiments of Hindus Jains and Buddhists, but most of this tradition has been lost. Extensive hunting by the British and the Indian rajas, large scale clearing of forests for agriculture, poaching, pesticides and the ever increasing population has had disastrous effects on India's environment. Only around 10% of the country still has forest cover and only 4% is protected within national parks and reserves. In the past few decades the government has taken serious steps to improve environmental management and has established over 350 parks, sanctuaries and reserves.

India will side swipe you with its size, glamour and diversity. The countries glorious diversity means there's an astonishing array of sacred sites, from immaculately kept Jain temples to weathered Buddhists stupas; there's history around every corner, with count less monuments, battle-scarred forts, abandoned

cities and ancient ruins all having tales to tell; and there are beaches to satiate the most avid sun worshipper. On a personal level, however India is going to be exactly what you make of it. India is a litmus test for many travelers-some are only too happy to leave while others stay for a lifetime.

Crystal Brisson  
04\HS\11

# THE LAND OF PEACE - THE LAND OF THE NOBLE LAURUEATES

## Introduction

West Bengal is one of the most colorful traditional corners of the country. This land has witnessed the birth of great writer, singer freedom fighters, social reformist and poets. This articles is a salutation of Rabindranath Tagore one of the greatest sons of Bengali.

Rabindranath agore (1861-1941) was the youngest son of Debendranath Tagore, a leader of the Brahmo Samaj. He was sent to England for formal schooling, but he did not finish his studies there. In his mature years, he increased his interest in social reforms and he participated in the India Nationalist movement. Tagore had early success as a writer in his native Bengal, with his translations of some of his poems he became rapidly known in the West. For the world he became the voice of India's spiritual heritage.

Although Tagore wrote successfully in all literacy genres, he was first of all a poet. He won the award of the Noble Prize for the literature Gitanjali and made him world-famous. This was the first award of that prize to an Asiatic. Tagore was a proud and ardent patriot. His most intense period of political activity was in the years following 1905, when the agitation against the partition of Bengal was at its highest. His patriotic poems and songs, particularly the latter, have passed into the common heritage of his country. There never was a poet more of the earth, more earthy, than Tagore. The song BHARATA-BHAGYA-VIDATA is now song all over India as the National Anthem.

## Shantiniketan

In 1901, Tagore started an experimental school at Shantiniketan (Abode of Peace), where he tried to put into practice his Upanishadic ideals of education. Built on the medieval model of TAPAVANA, classes in this school were held mostly outdoors, on the assumption that students could gain more from lessons held in a natural setting. As an alternative to western education, the school emphasized "local" elements in its curriculum, including a focus on Indian classics and the use of Bengali as the medium of education; but at the same time to avoid provincialism, it included courses on a great variety of culture, from the East and West.

In 1921, the school was elevated to the Visva-Bharati University. The institution had little money and the fees were low, so Tagore would go on lecture tours to different parts of the world to raise money. His lecture honoraria, as well as most of his Nobel Prize money, went to support the institution. Even Mahatma Gandhi raised money for it. Tagore gave so much time and energy to the school because he believed that lack of basic education was the fundamental cause of many of India's social and economic afflictions.

Shantiniketan, Tagore's university township, is a must on any itinerary that plots Bengal as a stopover.

Saranya C.  
II BA History