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AUSTRALIA ROADSHOW TO
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Corporate Tycoons

The Complete Business and Travel Magazine

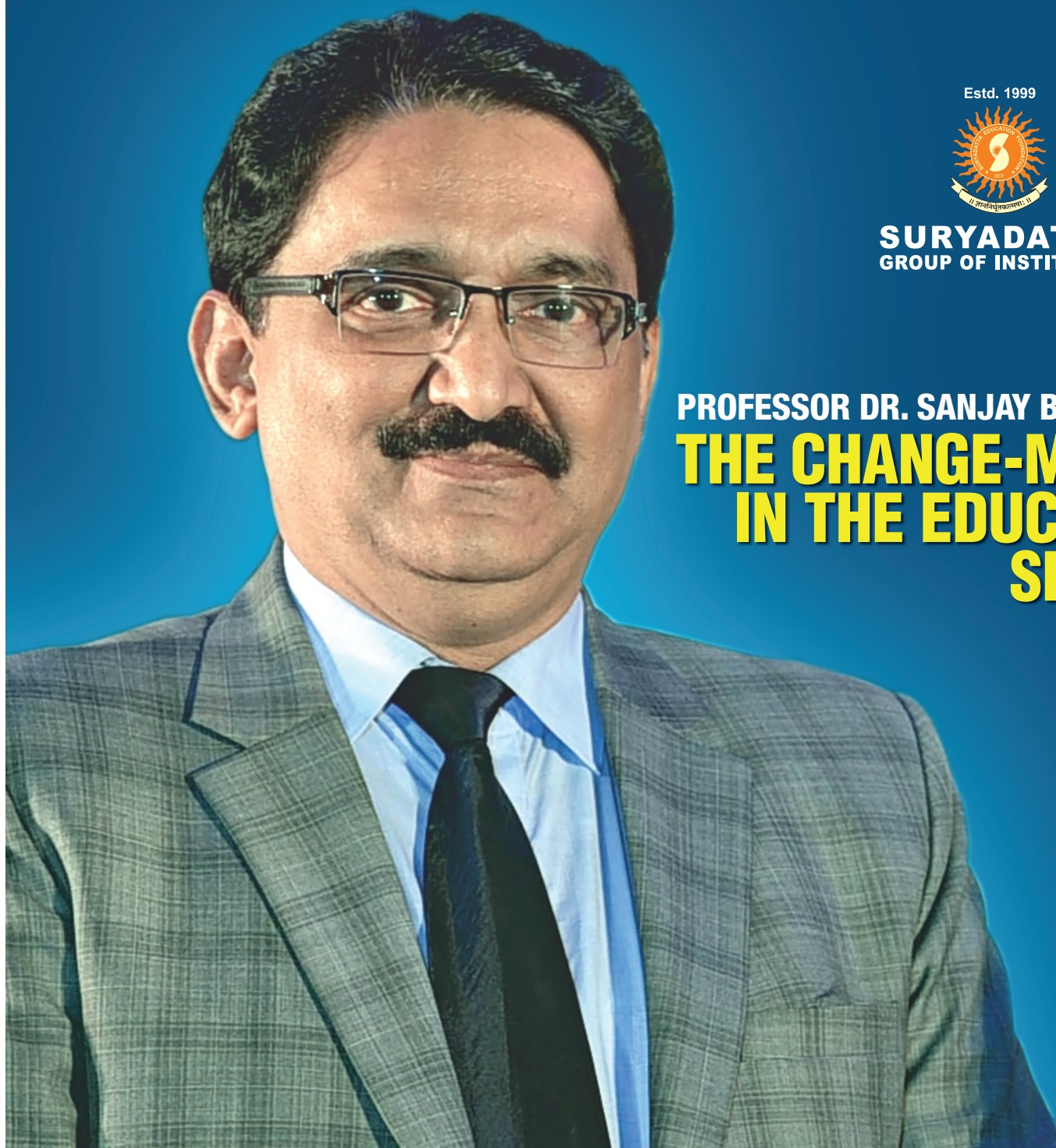
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SURYADATTA®
GROUP OF INSTITUTES

PROFESSOR DR. SANJAY B CHORDIYA
**THE CHANGE-MAKER
IN THE EDUCATION
SECTOR**





THE BIG THINKERS MAGAZINE

Corporate Tycoons

The Complete Business and Travel Magazine

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In this issue we have interviewed a top notch educationist Professor . Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya, the Founder President and Chairman of Suryadatta Education Foundation to find out how his Educational institution is making a difference in the lives of the students.

The Most Powerful Equation

The former Director General of CSIR and India's top educationist Dr Raghunath Mashelkar once narrated a very important point which sums up the importance of education. There was a discussion on what is possibly the most powerful equation that was ever developed by scientists. Someone said that it was the equation describing Newton's second law, giving the relationship between force (F), mass (m) and acceleration (a), namely, $F = ma$. Someone else said that it is Einstein's equation linking Energy (E) to mass (m) and the velocity of light (c), namely, $E = mc^2$. The others came out with some other suggestions.

When it was Dr Mashelkar's turn, he said "The most powerful equation is $E = F$. Here **E** is Education and **F** is Future! This means education is equal to the future. This equation is universal and eternal. If there is no education, there is no future. No future for the individual, no future for the nation."

There are countless benefits that are brought about by education, primarily regarding the quality of an individual's life and the ease of fulfillment of personal ambitions. In this issue we have interviewed a top notch educationist Professor, Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya, the Founder President and Chairman of Suryadatta Education Foundation to find out how his Educational institution is making a difference in the lives of the students.

This educationist's constant endeavor has been to develop a multi-faceted value based professionals in diverse fields, abreast with emerging technologies, understanding the rapidly changing needs of the complex global economy with dynamic innovative changes and preparing their mindset to be confident, creative and proactive, enriched by extensive industry interactions, value education, thus shaping up a holistic human being through 'value academics' that has a global focus. Over 72,000 students from various parts of the country including 33 foreign nations have been successfully imparted quality education for holistic development at affordable fees at the Suryadatta.

Another important story in this issue is the coverage of 'National conference on poultry & poultry products- creating an economically viable and sustainable poultry industry'. The event was held in New Delhi on 21st March 2022 under the aegis of CII and supported by Huvepharma SEA.

The conference could not have come at a better time for the embattled industry. It has been besieged with seemingly never-ending crises- COVID, bird flu, escalating feed ingredients and logistics cost, so on and so forth. The conference, the first in person, sit down one since COVID hit, served as a platform for the industry to come together, and collectively make representations to the government, policy makers to help alleviate problems faced by the industry.

On the tourism section, globetrotter Rahuldev Rajguru, CEO at Turuhi explores the beauty of BR Hills, or Biligiri Rangana Betta, a perfect weekend getaway from Bangalore that is just 170 km away with a 4-hour drive.

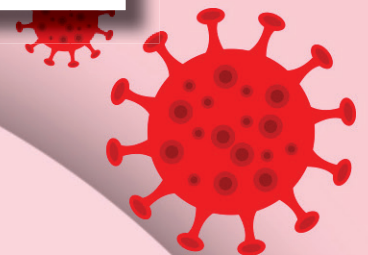
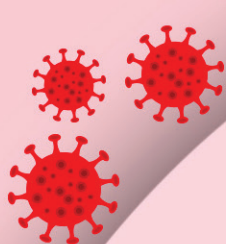
CHANDRAN IYER

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The Seven **Golden Steps**

- ▶ **FIRST**, to take special care of the elderly, especially those who have chronic disease.
- ▶ **SECOND** to completely adhere to the 'Lakshman Rekha' of Lockdown and Social Distancing; use homemade face-covers and masks without fail.
- ▶ **THIRD** to follow the instructions issued by AYUSH ministry to enhance immunity.
- ▶ **FOURTH** to download the Arogya Setu Mobile App to help prevent the spread of corona infection. Inspire others to download the app as well.
- ▶ **FIFTH** to take care of poor families; to fulfil their food requirements.
- ▶ **SIXTH** to be compassionate towards the people who work in every individual business or industry. Do not deprive them of their livelihood.
- ▶ **SEVENTH** to pay utmost respect to our nation's Corona Warriors – our doctors and nurses, sanitation workers and police force.



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by Corporate Tycoons magazine

KEY AFFILIATIONS & ACCREDITATIONS OF SURYADATTA GROUP OF INSTITUTES



Professor Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya,
 Founder President and Chairman,
 Suryadatta Education Foundation

PROFESSOR DR. SANJAY B CHORDIYA, THE CHANGE-MAKER IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

One of the hallmarks of a good business leader is his ability to look at the bright side of life even when the situation seems otherwise. This is what this Educationist has been doing to navigate his institution in globally tough times.

– By Chandran Iyer

Professor Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya, the Founder President and Chairman of Pune based Suryadatta Education Foundation is a man who has a proclivity to view every adversity as an opportunity. At time when the entire education sector worldwide is badly affected due to the pandemic, Dr Chordiya is not lamenting over the problems but rather looking at the new opportunity for innovation and growth.

He says, “Although the COVID 19 pandemic has thrown up umpteen challenges in all the sectors including the education, it has also opened the gateways for several opportunities. It is up to us to look at the positive side and move forward”.

Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya says “ Looking from one angle we find that there have been overwhelming challenges for educators, schools, institutes and the government regarding online education. But if we see from a different angle, there are also several opportunities created by the COVID-19 pandemic for the unprepared and the distant plans of implementing an e- learning system”.

One of the driving forces behind Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya is his wife Mrs Sushama Chordiya who is the Vice President & Secretary of the foundation. She has been instrumental in conceptualising and executing several initiatives for the holistic development of the students and the society which touch the lives of the students.

A recipient of several prestigious awards, Mrs Chordiya says “ Suryadatta Group of Institutes



has embarked on a path that reinvents itself into a 21st century academic conglomerate that touches several aspects of lives of the student community and contributes to their overall well-being”.

About the institute Mrs Chordiya says “As a group we have gone beyond our formal responsibility of curriculum delivery to inculcate best practices that lead to healthy and emphatic human beings. Excellence, to us is not a destination but a continuous journey”.



Glimpses of Suryadatta National Award 2022

Since its outbreak two years ago, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted education systems globally, affecting the most vulnerable learners the hardest. It has increased inequalities and exacerbated a pre-existing education crisis. School closures have ranged from no closures in a handful of countries to up to more than a full school year. Lack of connectivity and devices excluded at least one third of students from pursuing learning remotely.

CHALLENGE

Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya says "Though the pandemic has posed a big challenge by disrupting the education, It has also built a strong connection between teachers and parents than ever before. The home schooling requires parents to support the students' learning academically and economically.

His vision is to deliver quality education at affordable fees for holistic development for all strata of the society for peace and harmony in the world in an enlightening hygienic academic environment from kindergarten to PG-research level.

Talking about the challenges in the education sector, Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya says " Education models need to reflect the demand for lifelong learning to cope with the technical and social changes brought by the 4th Industrial Revolution. Skills instead of degrees may be the reality of the future. New business models and Start-ups are disrupting traditional educational institutions and operating models".

When asked about the plans of returning to pre covid days he says "It's tempting to wonder when things will return to normal, but the fact is that they won't – not the old normal anyway. But we can achieve a new kind of normality,

His vision is to deliver quality education at affordable fees for holistic development for all strata of the society for peace and harmony in the world in an enlightening hygienic academic environment from kindergarten to PG- research level.

even if this brave new world differs in fundamental ways. The word "normal" appears straight forward enough. But like many of our words, as soon as we begin thinking about it, it starts to fall apart at the seams", he added.

Explaining his success mantra Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya says "Success is not something you postpone for the future: to know the secret of success you must put your heart, mind and soul into even your smallest acts. It is something you design for the future".

He believes that teaching is not merely to reform the students. "It is to widen their horizon, inflame their intellects, and teach them to be self-directed." He is passionate in mentoring students, alumni & staff members. He conducts faculty development programmes for enriching the faculties who in turn transfer the knowledge to the students.

He says "In a future of unprecedented societal shifts, education is crucial to managing the challenges ahead. With more automated, digitized and fluid job markets, today's higher education systems are quickly becoming incompatible with the future we are looking towards."



A Global Symposium on "Challenges of 21st Century" event held at campus. Delegates from USA, UK, ITALY, GERMANY, other countries and Mr Tonino Lamborghini Chairman and MD Lamborghini Group and team attended event

He laments the fact that India is two decades into the 21st century, yet higher education is generally still geared to succeeding in the 20th. "It is equally important to focus the inevitable structural transformations of higher education ", he added.

CAREER JOURNEY

Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya career journey started at the age of 10 with a concept of 'Learn while you Earn' due to family constraints. At this tender age, learning, creative thinking, ability to face challenges, hard-working ability were imbibed with real life experience and concurrent education and the same is still going on at the age of 60+ years. Even after completing the graduation, he continued to work in Force Motors Ltd for 20 years in the capacity of stakeholder of the company. After gaining knowledge and experience, Suryadatta Education Foundation (SEF) Trust started with Suryadatta Institute of Computer Technology in affiliation with Microsoft Novell and CMS in the year 1999, with few students.

Over the time, it has now blossomed into bouquet of Institutions offering wide range of academic programs from basic schooling to Doctorate degree. Every year since inception, one new college has been started. SEF is permanently unaided self-financed Jain Minority Institution and is known for students' holistic development.



Professor Dr Shailesh Kasande CEO and Er Siddhant Chordiya EDO, SGI along with students visited National University of Singapore as Global Immersion Program



Er. Siddhant Sanjay Chordiya & Professor Dr. Sanjay B Chordiya Felicitated Dr. K. Sivan Chairman ISRO at ISRO Headquarters, Bangalore in 2020



'The Saint of Modern India' Suryadatta National Lifetime achievement award 2022 conferred to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar ji at the hands of Honble Shri Thavar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, Achary Shri Lokesh Muniji and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister Jal Shakti Government of India

The vision, dedication & relentless efforts has facilitated growth of SEF into Suryadatta Group of Institutions (SGI). Suryadatta is an educational conglomerate of 25+ recognised Academic Institutions comprising of K- 12 schools, Junior colleges, Higher education institutions offering UG & PG courses, Research centres, Centres of Excellence in training, research & consultancy, Innovation & Incubation centres and many more. SGI offers academic programs in multiple disciplines such as Business Management, Information Technology, Hospitality (Hotel) Management & Travel Tourism, Interior & Fashion Design, Animation, Health & Fitness, Theatre & Performing arts, Cyber Security, Home Science, Teacher Education, Arts, Commerce and many more emerging field.

Apart from professional recognized academic Institutions, Suryadatta has instituted 30+voluntary institutions for providing voluntary education, skill based modules, Learn while you Earn opportunity & other services to the economically deprived strata of the society to enhance their knowledge & employability

skills and become self-sustainable. These programs are customized as per their requirement and offered in their locality to make them convenient to attend.

Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya constant endeavor has been to develop multi-faceted value based professionals in diverse fields, abreast with emerging technologies, understanding the rapidly changing needs of the complex global economy with dynamic innovative changes and preparing their mindset to be confident, creative and proactive, enriched by extensive industry interactions, value education, thus shaping up a holistic human being through 'value academics' that has a global focus. Over 72,000 students from various parts of the country including 33 foreign nations have been successfully imparted quality education for holistic development at affordable fees at the Suryadatta.



Mr Ross Pearo, Senior Director Of Strategic Alliance and Initiatives at Harvard Business School online handing over the association certificate

ONLINE LEARNING

The teachers are facing big challenges because of unplanned and rapid move to online teaching and learning. Dr Chordiya feels that there is a need to impart

One of the driving forces behind Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya is his wife Mrs Sushama Chordiya who is the Vice President & Secretary of the foundation. She has been instrumental in conceptualising and executing several initiatives for the holistic development of the students and the society which touch the lives of the students.

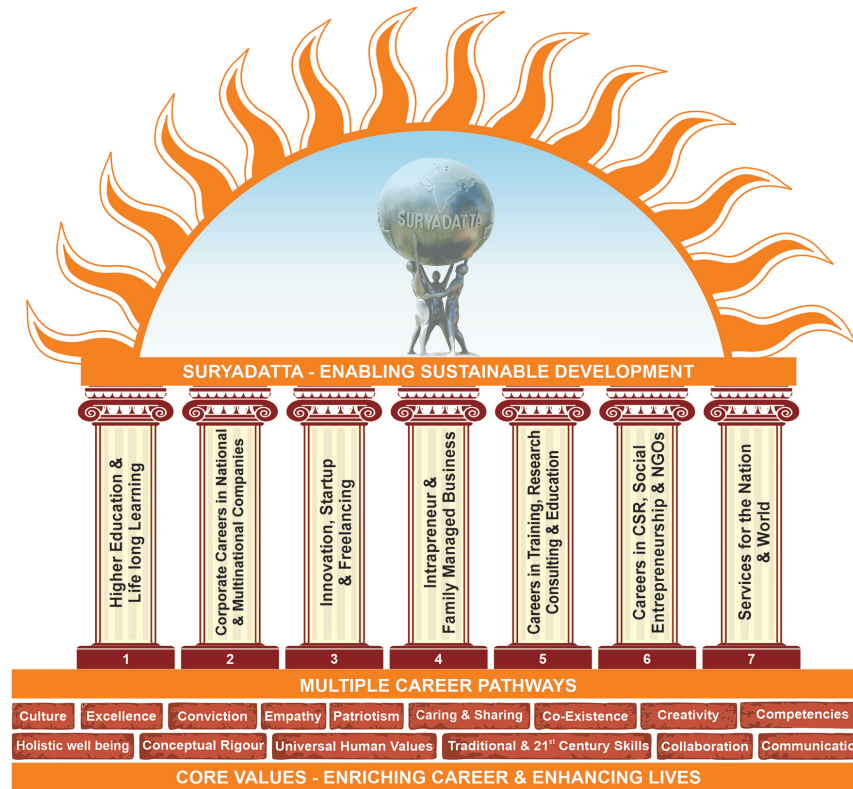


Behind every successful man there is a woman.

7 PILLARS OF MULTIPLE CAREER PATHWAYS - THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Suryadatta Group of Institutes is guided by the above quote of the father of the nation. All are academic initiatives embody the above ethos, in letter and spirit and thus we go beyond the narrow perspective of education in terms of degrees and jobs.

We believe in creating a transformational educational experience. Various activities are offered round the year for Holistic Development of the students leading to the 7 pillars of Multiple Career Pathways.



intensive training to the teachers for switching to the new mode of teaching. He says "Though educational institutes and teachers were not ready for the pandemic effect, they have tried their best to cope up with the situation and give justice to the students. But in future it's going to be the way of life. And therefore there is a need of intensive training to mark them as future ready mentors".

The institution, Suryadatta, is situated in the heart of the city, Pune, the Oxford of the East. Suryadatta boasts of a lush green, serene campus with all facilities required for a holistic growth of youth. The institution, Suryadatta, provides ample free space in the open and in the corridors for free movement of students.

The spirit of classroom training encompasses the fundamentals of theoretical and conceptual learning through interactive sessions of case studies, assignments, group discussions, presentation by students etc. Suryadatta boasts of having a full-fledged gymnasium, meditation hall, grounds for the successful conduct of outdoor games and spaces allotted with indoor games.

The emphasis is on total personality development, social etiquette, confidence building, body language and accent training. Placement team provides regular industrial visits, guest lectures at regular intervals by corporate personalities on current topics, seminars and conferences, on-the-job

"In a future of unprecedented societal shifts, education is crucial to managing the challenges ahead. With more automated, digitized and fluid job markets, today's higher education systems are quickly becoming incompatible with the future we are looking towards."

training for PG students, and skill enhancement courses. The impact of COVID 19 was felt by all sectors and Education is no exception. The structure of schooling and learning, including teaching and assessment methodologies, has undergone a fundamental change post COVID 19.

In spite of various constraints of maintaining social distancing and other related challenges, the Education sector has taken the situation in its stride. Needless to say, the pandemic has transformed the centuries-old, chalk-talk teaching model in India, to one driven by technology. This disruption in the delivery of education is pushing policymakers to figure out how to drive engagement at scale while ensuring inclusive e-learning solutions and tackling the digital divide. The need of the hour in India is a multi-pronged strategy which is necessary to manage the

technology disruption in Education, and build a resilient Indian education system in the long term.

Many aspirational institutions in India, have initiated innovative, mobile-based learning models for effective delivery of education, which can be adopted by others. Effective time bound strategies are required to prepare the higher education sector for the evolving demand–supply trends across the globe—particularly those related to the global mobility of students and faculty and improving the quality of and demand for higher studies in India. It is also important to reconsider the current delivery and pedagogical methods in school and higher education by seamlessly integrating classroom learning with e-learning modes to build a unified learning system.

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Talking about his institute Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya said “We ensure that the students are developed holistically to face the dynamic global environment. Of course, weightage is given to academics, technology plays a significant role here. Flipped classrooms, simulation games by AIMA, Industrial visits, On-the-Job training is also provided as per the competent authorities’ instructions and policies.

He said a student’s life at Suryadatta is chartered for 360 degree activities which make him a complete professional to face any challenges in the dynamic global environment. “In addition to this at Suryadatta, we have been constantly keeping our students engaged with online classes & assignments, virtual internship opportunities with leading corporates etc. We do understand the importance of technology which is crucial in today’s world. Our faculty members, staff and students are cooperating in making things happen smoothly”, he added.

Suryadatta has been ranked in the Platinum category for the five consecutive years by AICTE CII Industry survey because of the impeccable connect that we have with the corporates and industries of various sectors. As our stakeholder, we utilize the vivid experiences of the corporates in framing the PGDM curriculum, and providing value added courses to enhance the employability of our

Nurturing Future Billionaires

Suryadatta - Grooming future ready talent for the nation since 1999.

SEF's Suryadatta Group of Institutes (SGI) is a unique educational conglomerate based in Pune, India. Founded in 1999, Suryadatta Group of Institutes today offers wide range of academic programmes from basic schooling, undergraduate and post graduate programmes as well as doctoral programme across multiple disciplines such as Information Technology, Business Management, Computer Applications, Hospitality Management, Aviation, Travel and Tourism, Interior Design, Fashion Design, Event Management, Beauty & Wellness, Health and Fitness, Performing Arts, Mass Communication, Animation, Film Making, Gaming, Physiotherapy and Cyber and Digital Science Course.

Inspired by the vision of providing contemporary and quality education, backed by high quality research, and skill based training interventions as per the current needs of the industry, the group has established over 30 Institutions out of which 15 institutions are affiliated to leading state Universities like Pune University, KKSU, YCMOU & various competent government authorities, AICTE, DTE, MSBTE, MSBVE, CBSE, Govt. of Maharashtra and NSDC, MESC Skill Development Councils etc. and around 30 voluntary, not-for-profit institutions in the areas of vocational, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development, Rehabilitation of Divyang Children, Sports & Fitness, Skill Development & CSR, Self Defense and Performing Arts to name a few.



Achievements & Recognitions

Suryadatta Institutes have been honored with many national and international awards like

- 'A' category in top 50 group of institutions in India for 18 years by leading national surveys
- Suryadatta Institutes of Management are ranked among top 50 B schools by Times B-school for the 8th consecutive year, 2021.
- Suryadatta National school is ranked as 1st in Academic Excellence by Pune Times Mirror in 2021
- Suryadatta Group Institutes conferred with Global Business Award 2019 for being Top Institute in India for Holistic Development and Exemplary contribution to Indian Education in October 2019.
- AICTE CII has ranked Suryadatta Institute of Management & Mass Communication (SIMMC) in Platinum category for the 6th consecutive year.
- Recipient of Top Private Management Institutes in Western region by Jagran Josh ranking, 2021
- Indias Top Animation Brand 2019
- The Group is conferred with 'World's Greatest Brand 2017-18 during Indo - UAE Business & Social forum 2018, in Dubai
- Suryadatta College of Hospitality Management, Travel & Tourism has been recognized by GHRDC in Top 3 Colleges in the category of Excellence in 2020
- Suryadatta has been ranked in Top 10 promising Interior Design Institutes by Higher Education & Best Fashion Design Institute in Maharashtra by Rising Leadership Awards in 2020



Suryadatta Group of Institutes confers 'Suryadatta National Lifetime Achievement Award-2022' to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

students. Topics that are of vital relevance to the current market dynamics are taught by corporate personalities of that sector as guest lectures. We have signed a MOU with Harvard Publishing School for providing corporate case studies and courses on various topics for our students. We encourage our students to visit Industrial units and to interact with corporates regularly. On-the-job training, internships and project works are channelized through our Placement team and monitored by eminent faculty members of our group. Suryadatta ensures that the students are made corporate ready from day one of their joining the family of Suryadatta.

About the way forward for his institute, Dr Chordiya says the young manpower in India, the unity in diversity, strong governance and proactive global image makes India the most preferred destination for many countries. "Based on the strengths of Indian wisdom, Value based education and philosophy of nurturing student capabilities, which are worth Billions of dollars; Suryadatta's unique vision is to offer collaborations to various universities and institutions globally. Suryadatta has initiated Academia-Academia collaborations to various institutes in India such as Gujarat technical university and many more", he added.

When asked about the future of his institute Professor Dr Sanjay Chordiya said with technology takeover and globalization, the education system is changing very fast. "The future will be a time of edu-tech, digital learning and online education. SGI will be much ahead in the run amongst others", he added.

One of his biggest strength has been his family. They all have played an important role in the growth of Suryadatta as an institution of excellence. This includes his wife Mrs Sushama Chordiya, Vice President of the group, his daughters Mrs Snehal Navalakha, AVP SEF, Dr Kimaya K Gandhi, AVP SEF and son Siddhant S Chordiya who is Executive Development officer. "My family is my biggest strength. They all have played a key role in the growth and development of this institution" added Professor Dr Chordiya.

And how does Professor Dr. Chordiya unwind? By reading spiritual and thought provoking books and listening spiritual thoughts of the distinguished personalities like Sadguru Jagadish "Jaggi" Vasudev.



Dr Kimaya Gandhi,
AVP- Health Sciences, SEF



Er Siddhant Chordiya,
Executive Development Officer, SGI



Mrs. Snehal Navalakha,
AVP- Organisation Development, SEF

Suryadatta Differentiators

- **Contemporary, Blended education:** Creating cutting edge professionals
- **Academic Collaborations with International Institutions & Indian Institutions of Eminence:** Learn from the best in class.
- Commendable Placement record since inception & Lifetime Skills Development.
- **Strong alumni network:** Plug into wide professional network across globe.
- Extensive Industry - Institute Interface : For corporate ready students
- **Global Focus:** For Global careers.
- **Entrepreneurship Cell:** Contributing to economic & social development.
- **Green & Digital campus:** Creating responsible citizens.
- Collaborative and immersive learning.
- **Doctoral Research Centre:** Strong conceptual foundations.
- **Innovation and Incubation Centre:** Promoting startup culture.
- **Holistic Well being:** Shaping a Good Human being.
- **Silence zone:** Meditation & thinking labs.
- **Nation Integration:** True colours of India.
- **360 degree Development:** Creating human assets for the nation

Suryadatta National Awards: Saluting the Stalwarts

Suryadatta is perhaps the only institution where more than 500 leading distinguished national and international personalities have visited and inspired students and staff. Every year, on occasion of its foundation day, Suryadatta hosts Suryadatta National Awards. Eminent personalities from different walks of Life are recognised during the award function. To name few, Padmabhushan Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Scientist Dr.Kasturi Ranjan, Yogacharya Padmabhushan Dr. BKS Iyengar, eminent actor Shri Anupam Kher, Padma Bhushan Shri Shiv Nadar, Ms.Shannaz Hussain, Ms. Kiran Bedi, Padmavibhushan Mohan Dharia, Padmabhushan Mashelkar, Padmabhushan Dr. Vijay Bhatkar etc. have visited and inspired students and staff. Every year, on occasion of its foundation day, Suryadatta hosts Suryadatta National Awards. Eminent personalities from different walks of Life are recognised during the award function. To name few, Padmabhushan Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Scientist Dr.Kasturi Ranjan, Padmabhushan Dr. BKS Iyengar, eminent actor Shri Anupam Kher, Dr. Datta Kohinkar Patil, Padma Bhushan Shri Shiv Nadar, Ms.Shannaz Hussain are few of our past awardees. 🇮🇳

for more details visit www.suryadatta.org

India-Japan Summit for a Peaceful & Stable Post-COVID World

The Prime Ministers appreciated the significant progress made in security and defence cooperation and reaffirmed their desire to further deepen it.

- A PIB Report

Prime Minister of Japan H.E. Mr. Kishida Fumio made an official visit to India, as his first bilateral visit, from 19 to 20 March 2022 for the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit with H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Ministers recognized that the Summit was taking place at a

significant time as the two countries were celebrating the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations and India was celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence. They reviewed the developments since the last Annual Summit and discussed wide ranging areas of cooperation.

The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Kishida Fumio signing the visitors' book, at Hyderabad House, in New Delhi on March 19, 2022. PM is also seen.





Reaffirming the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan, the Prime Ministers concurred that the shared values and principles enunciated in the India-Japan Vision Statement issued in 2018 are particularly relevant in the present context, where global cooperation is required more than ever to address challenges that have become more acute. They highlighted their commitment to working in tandem towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous world, based on a rules-based order that respects sovereignty and territorial


integrity of nations, and emphasized the need for all countries to seek peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law without resorting to threat or use of force or any attempt to unilaterally change status quo. In this regard, they reaffirmed their common vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, free from coercion.

They shared the view that the economies of both countries in such a world would be powered by robust bilateral investment and trade flows through diversified, resilient, transparent, open, secure and predictable global supply chains that provide for economic security and prosperity of their peoples. Reaffirming that the two countries would continue to work together to realize these shared objectives, they resolved to further advance the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership.

The Prime Ministers appreciated the significant progress made in security and defence cooperation and reaffirmed their desire to further deepen it. They welcomed the holding of the first 2+2 meeting of their Foreign and Defence Ministers in November 2019 in New Delhi and instructed their Ministers to hold the second meeting at the earliest opportunity in Tokyo. They also welcomed the operationalization of the Agreement Concerning Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and the Indian Armed Forces.

They expressed their commitment to continuing bilateral and multilateral exercises including "Dharma Guardian" and "Malabar" respectively, while welcoming the participation of Japan for the first time in exercise MILAN, as well as making efforts to increase their complexity in the future. They reaffirmed the decision to proceed with coordination for the inaugural fighter exercise between the Japan Air Self-Defense Force and the Indian Air Force and welcomed the efforts to hold the exercise at the earliest. They acknowledged ongoing collaboration in the area of Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) and Robotics and directed their Ministers to further identify concrete areas for future cooperation in the area of defence equipment and technology.

With their commitment to promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region, the Prime Ministers affirmed the importance of bilateral and plurilateral partnerships among like-minded countries of the region, including the quadrilateral cooperation among Australia, India, Japan, and the United States (the Quad). They welcomed the Quad Leaders' Summits in March and September 2021 and renewed their commitment to delivering tangible outcomes on the Quad's positive and constructive agenda, especially on COVID vaccines, critical and emerging technologies, climate action, infrastructure coordination, cybersecurity, space and education. They looked forward to advancing Quad cooperation through the next Quad Leaders' Summit in Japan in the coming months.

Prime Minister Kishida welcomed the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) announced by Prime Minister Modi in 2019. The Prime Ministers acknowledged the growing space for cooperation between the IPOI and Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP). India appreciated Japan's participation as a lead partner on the connectivity pillar of IPOI. They reiterated their strong support for ASEAN's unity and centrality and their full support for the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)" which upholds the principles such as the rule of law, openness, freedom, transparency and inclusiveness. 



Roadshow to Promote Australian Education

Australia has supported Indian students to build global careers through world class education and is committed to support future students through a range of attractive visa options and post study work rights.

- By A Correspondent

Over the years, an increasing number of Indian students were opting to study in Australia for its world-class education, post-study work opportunities and quality of living. In pursuit of attracting students from Pune region to study in Australia, the Australian Trade and Investment Commission, organised a roadshow in the city, highlighting the various initiatives introduced by the government to support the international students.

The Australian Government is offering a range of new visa support initiatives to international students and graduates, including: an international student visa fee refund and Covid-19 visa fee waiver, extra time for English language tests and health checks, replacement Temporary Graduate visas and extended 'stay and work' periods. Furthermore, fully vaccinated international student visa holders, who have arrived in Australia between January 19, and March 19, 2022 were eligible for the visa application fee refund. The refund applies to current visa holders and new students. Eligible visa holders will be able to make a claim any time up to 31 December 2022.

Students already in Australia, who held a student visa on or after 1 February 2020 and could not complete their course within the original visa time period because of the impacts of COVID-19, may be eligible to have their student visa application fee (VAC) waived when applying for a new student visa.

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Dr. Monica Kennedy, Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Australian Government

A temporary relaxation of work restrictions for international student visa holders means there is no current restriction on the number of hours that students can work while studying in Australia. These changes will be reviewed in April 2022. Students must still meet satisfactory course enrolment, attendance and progress requirements.

Graduates who held a valid Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485), were outside of Australia at any time between 1 February 2020 and 14 December 2021 and lost time in Australia as a result of COVID-19 international travel restrictions, will have their visa extended to 30 September 2022. This extension is to allow eligible graduates time to apply for a replacement visa.

The length of stay for Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) holders has been extended from two (2) to three (3) years for Masters by Coursework graduates, matching the existing provisions for Masters by Research graduates. Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector graduates will also receive a two (2) year Temporary Graduate visa.

Talking about the initiatives, Dr. Monica Kennedy, Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, Australian Trade and Investment Commission, Australian Government said, "From 22 November 2021 (when the Australian Government announced that the border would open to students) to 18 March 2022, there have been 28,785 student visas lodged by Indian nationals. The Australian Government has worked hard to process student visas to ensure that Indian students are able to return to Australia to commence their studies for semester 1 2022. A surge of applications has been successfully processed with 15,310 visas granted from 22 November 2021 to 18 March 2022 and over 25,000 students arriving on our shores to begin or resume study at Australia's quality education institutions."

Australian education is in the top tier of demand globally, due to its high quality, strict accreditation standards,


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The India-Australia relationship is at an all-time high. The pace and scale of our cooperation has been grown swiftly since our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was agreed in 2020. The recent Summit between Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on 21 March called for a new level of ambition to drive our cooperation forward, particularly when it comes to our economic cooperation and education is a sector which holds great potential.

sophisticated support for international students, relevant curriculum and one of highest graduate employability rates, all delivering a better return on investment for the student. Australia has one of the most supportive international education systems in world. The Australian Strategy for International Education 2021 2030 puts the student experience, student protection and students' rights at the centre."

The unprecedented outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the lives of millions of students, especially international students who experienced difficulties due to border restrictions and health hazards, across the world. Recently, Australian Trade and Investment Commission has launched Study Australia Industry Immersion Program (SAIEP) for current Indian students at Australian universities to enhance their employability skills.

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At the Summit, Prime Ministers announced a Taskforce on Education Qualifications Recognition which will address the recognition of different delivery modes including online and blended learning, joint degrees, and education at offshore campuses. The taskforce will deliver a mechanism for expanding education qualification recognition between Australia and India by the end of the year, with implementation to take place in 2023. 

Dr. Veerappa Moily & Dr. H. V. Hande Get Life Time Achievement Awards

12th Edition of Sansad Ratna Awards honors top performing MPs.

- By TN Ashok



Dr. Veerappa Moily, former Karnataka Chief Minister and veteran legislator and author of several scholarly books from religion to economics and culture, was honored with a Life Time Achievement award at the 12th edition of the Sansad Ratna Awards held at the Maharashtra Sadan by a Chennai based NGO called the Prime Point Foundation on March 26 this year. The award was presented by the Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra.



Dr. H. V. Hande, former health minister in the MGR government in Tamil Nadu and a veteran legislator and renowned doctor in Chennai, was also awarded the Life Time Achievement award, but at Chennai under the auspices of the president of the BJP wing in Tamil Nadu Mr. Annamalai. Dr. Hande has turned 95 years this year and was unable to travel to Delhi due to prior commitments and health issues. The award was also given in absentia at the event in Delhi.

Some 11 top performing MPs of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and standing committee Chairmen were honored with the Sansad Ratna Awards. Ms. Supriya Sule, NCP MP from Barmer, Maharashtra, was given a special award "Athi Vishishit Sansadratna" titled award. She received the award in absentia.

The awards were ideated by the later President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, who felt that top performing MPs should be recognized for their work. There was a general tendency to parody MPs in films and social media and people were getting a wrong perception of MPs. Hence, the awards were



Dr Veerappa Moily Making a Point B4 TV Networks



K Srinivasan Seaking at the Sasadratna Awards



MoS Par affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal chairman of the Jury

instituted some 12 years ago by the founder of Prime Point Foundation K Srinivasan, a former bank executive, under whose tutelage several umbrella organizations have mushroomed. One of the most notable outfits is the Education Loan Task Force (ELTF) which helps under privileged students secure education loans and also helps alert banks against the arm twisting methods of outsourcing agencies to recover the loans. Some of the students have got postings in overseas countries.

Presenting the awards the Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra said the constant endeavor of the election commission (ECI) was to conduct elections which were free, fair and inclusive. "It is only through this that a truly representative parliament is chosen". Sushil Chandra said it was ECI's constant endeavor that voters were well informed so that the best candidate was chosen for the parliament or assembly who could represent them.

ECI gives complete information about the candidates, their educational background assets and liabilities and criminal antecedents, if any, and the same is published on the website for the awareness of the voters, he said.

From the general elections held in 1951 when 17.30 crore voters were registered, turnout was around 45.6 %. During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections the number of registered voters was around 91.20 crore. Voter turnout was around 66.4 %. As on today there are more than 95.30 crore voters out of which 49.04 crore are male voters and 46.09 crore voters are females. Among this, 1.92 crore are senior citizens including 80 plus and 81.39 lakh persons are with disabilities. More than 1.37 crore newly registered voters have been recorded.

In his acceptance speech, Veerappa Moily gave a resounding

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speech saying electoral reforms were necessary to ensure that money power did not come in the way of genuine candidates who struggled to muster the finances to contest elections. He said in fact the government should explore the concept of state funding of elections.

Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State for Parliamentary affairs, presiding, said the Sansad Ratna had a come a long way in honoring top performing MPs, in the last 12 years under the vision of the late president Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. He said the foundations' awards would inspire young MP's to perform well in the benefit of citizens. Mr. N. K. Premachandran, RSP, also a previous Sansad Ratna award winner and a member of the jury committee, said the foundation had a set trend in rewarding MPs for their good performance. The nextgen MPs should be inspired by the awards to perform well in the house.

Both Mr. K Srinivasan, founder and, Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul, President of the Awards Committee traced the history of the awards since inception and how year after year the foundation had been nominating MPs for the awards through "a very transparent process" with the help of PRSI wing of the Parliament. Interestingly the maximum number of awards has been bagged by MPs in Maharashtra, who have shown top performance in categories of questions, debates, private members resolutions etc.

A major feature of the event were the two seminars coinciding with the post lunch session of the awards. One was on the empowerment of women and another on the post normal Covid situation on education. The first one was moderated by Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul, SC advocate. Participants: Dr. Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.

The second one was moderated by Mr. Tarun Nangia, (Legally Speaking fame and Advocate). The New Normal in the Education System – Post Covid Effect ; Participants. Dr. C Rajkumar, Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global (Institution of Eminence Deemed University) Mr. Vikas Arya, Secretary, DAV Group of Schools, Chennai.

The distinguished gathering was treated to an ensemble of patriotic and devotional songs by the full orchestra and choir singers of the famed Hindu College of Delhi University. 



Need to Reconstitute Poultry Advisory Committee

There is a need to focus on inclusivity of small farmers, expediting vaccines for poultry and Ease of Doing Business for export oriented businesses.

- By Sanjeev Bhasin

Under the aegis of CII and supported by Huvepharma SEA, the 'National conference on poultry & poultry products- creating an economically viable and sustainable poultry industry' was held in New Delhi on 21st March 2022.

The conference could not have come at a better time for the embattled industry. It has been besieged with

seemingly never-ending crises- COVID, bird flu, escalating feed ingredients and logistics cost, so on and so forth. The conference, the first in person, sit down one since COVID hit, served as a platform for the industry to come together, and collectively make representations to the government, policy makers to help alleviate problems faced by the industry.



In attendance were Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Hon'ble Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India, Mr Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Dr O P Chaudhary, Joint Secretary (NLM) Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, industry titans and stakeholders of the industry.

A major and recurring theme in the proceedings was the size of the world population, which is projected to get to 10bn by 2050. More importantly, India will become the MOST populous nation in the world. Feeding this population is going to be a challenge considering the limitations in resources. Food production will have to be doubled, but it will have to be grown in the same amount of land, with lesser amount of water and probably with more expensive inputs. There were more questions than answers- questions to which

this conference has paved the way for finding answers.

The industry was in agreement that the 'consumer' will emerge as a key consideration and newest stakeholder in the industry. Why? COVID has changed the manner in which consumers shop. Gone is the preference of making a visit to the wet market. It is replaced with clicking 'buy' on the phone, laptop, only after having checked all the label claims. Stores like Nandu's are a manifestation of what the consumers want- hygiene, traceability of meat, processing, storage conditions- the full experience.

Today, chicken is the most common meat served in Indian homes. With improving purchasing power, more disposable income, better awareness associated with benefits of animal protein consumption- its going to hold this position undisputed. So, what do we need to do today to ensure that we satisfy the burgeoning demand of tomorrow?



Dr Alain Kanora, Director, Huvepharma NV, Bulgaria and Mr OP Singh ,Conference Chairman and Managing Director HuvePharma SEA (Pune) Pvt Ltd lighting the lamp in the presence of Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy.

The panelists emphasised and re-emphasised about the nature of conducting poultry production- it has to be sustainable. Available resources cannot be utilised indiscriminately, with disregard to the ecosystem. Poultry production should be regenerative. And for it to be such requires a large-scale collective effort centred on small-scale farmer success and system-level collective impact.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Hon'ble Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India, in his address mentioned that only if there is a farmer, there will be poultry. Integration of small and marginal farmers with poultry production is an area that needs attention. There is definitely a case here for better hand holding and integration of marginal, small & medium farmers with poultry production houses.

The need to guarantee feed safety was highlighted by several speakers. We are ultimately, what we eat...so if what we eat is not fed safe food, it makes its way up the food chain, creating a considerable risk to human health. It would serve the industry well to embrace the 'food safety culture' – a top down heightened consciousness towards feed safety.

This redirected the focus to food processing. Currently, in India, about 5% of poultry meat is sold in processed form, of which only about 1% undergoes processing into value-

added products (ready-to-eat/ready-to-cook). The poultry processing industry in India is expected to expand at a CAGR of ~12% between 2018 and 2023. For this statistic to become a reality, food processing needs to be pushed and encourage for better promotion of chicken protein. Presentations were made by stakeholders showcasing the various capabilities currently available and those under development for the India market.

There is growing pollution from poultry waste. Poultry operations generate a lot of waste throughout various stages of production. The waste needs to be treated, processed and disposed off or repurposed to limit littering and pollution. Poultry waste management solutions were presented and discussed.

Disease management in poultry was also discussed aggressively. Especially because avian influenza and other diseases continue to wreak havoc with the industry, eroding its value.

There has been a lot of evolution and innovation in enhancing poultry production efficiencies. One of the sessions deliberated on technology adaptations and innovations leading to increased quality of feeds in terms of nutrition, technology towards environmental control farms, hatchery technologies, automation in processing, innovations

in packaging and integration of safety and hygiene that are the essential requirements to produce healthy and nutritious poultry products. The way forward is automation- to limit the degree of human involvement and thus, error, leading to better output.

The world is looking to India to claim its rightful place on the world stage as a leading producer of poultry and value added products. As a low hanging fruit, Indian chicken meat should be promoted to targeted countries where meat is imported on a large scale. The panel discussed the deterrents in import of Indian poultry output. Perception, lack of image building and networking, sluggish lobbying were identified as some of the culprits. The answer to which was that the industry should put up a united front. This was reiterated by Mr. Bahadur Ali, Founder and Managing Director IB Group. He said there is strength in numbers, better influencing and bargaining power too. Mr. Ali expressed his concern about the volatility in pricing of corn and soya, which is upending the cost of production.

Mr. Ram Reddy, Managing Director Sneha Farms requested for FTAs with targeted countries which will act as a stimulus for exportability of hatching eggs, table eggs, value added chicken meat and egg powder.

A key announcement that was made by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan Hon'ble Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Government of India, was to reactivate the Poultry Advisory Committee. This committee would serve as the conduit between the ministry and industry and function as an effective tool to compile efforts being made by both sides for the betterment of the industry. Mr Atul Chaturvedi Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Dr O P Chaudhary Joint Secretary (NLM) Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India, both shared how various government schemes have fared and what new ones have been launched.

Dr Alain Kanora, Director, Huvepharma NV, Bulgaria mentioned, "The growth of poultry in India is owing to the rise in fast food and ready-to-eat food, and these need to be supported by industry". He also emphasized the need for legislation & 'auto control' to ensure quality.

"Value-added poultry products are fast emerging in India, driven by demand for packaged/ processed foods, ready-to-eat meats and meat-derived products, and will be the levers for the future growth of the sector" mentioned Mr Arabind Das, Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and CMD, NutriWiz Global Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.

Given that export of poultry and value added meat products will drive the sector's growth, Mr. O P Singh,




The most important is - the need of a united industry. I cannot reiterate it enough. There is strength in numbers, strength begets influence and influence will turn the tide in our favour. I'm certain we will see tangible outcomes from this and such meaningful exchange, said Mr. O P Singh, Conference Chairman and Managing Director HuvePharma SEA (Pune) Pvt Ltd on the sidelines of the conference.

He said "Success of the industry lies in preempting all challenges and meeting it with togetherness.

"The ability to identify and work with partners is a powerful source of competitive advantage, particularly when it comes to creating new growth products, solutions and business models", he added.

Conference Chairman and Managing Director HuvePharma SEA (Pune) Pvt Ltd, mentioned that "We need to focus on inclusivity of small farmers, expediting vaccines for poultry and Ease of Doing Business for export oriented businesses".

The conference presented an opportunity to look beyond problems- tap into opportunities that would shape the future of the poultry industry. As it turned out, there are limitless possibilities and untapped potential. One thing is for certain- the stage is set for explosive growth of the industry in the decades to come.

The principal sponsor of the conference was Huvepharma SEA. Huvepharma is a Bulgaria based multinational specialising in veterinary healthcare with an experience of over 50 years. They are the world's first carbon neutral approach company, revolutionizing the way poultry industry does business. 

To know more about them please visit www.huvepharma.com.

After Two Years, Regular International Flight Resumes

As many as 60 airlines from 40 countries have been permitted to operate 1,783 frequencies to/from India during the summer schedule, according to DGCA.

- By A Correspondent

After a coronavirus pandemic-induced hiatus of over two years, regular international flights resumed from March 27 with airports and airlines getting ready for normal overseas operations. Battered by the pandemic, the airline industry is slowly coming back to normalcy and the resumption of normal overseas flights is expected to provide a fillip to the sector.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, which is also the country's largest airport, expects international flight departures to witness a significant jump in the first week of April after the resumption of regular international operations.

While Indian carriers are prepared for normal international services, various foreign airlines, including Emirates, Virgin



Atlantic and LOT Polish have also announced plans about their services to and from India.

As many as 60 airlines from 40 countries have been permitted to operate 1,783 frequencies to/from India during the summer schedule, according to DGCA. The summer schedule will be effective from March 27 till October 29.

A total of 1,466 international departures per week have been approved for six Indian carriers for the summer schedule. They will operate to 43 destinations in 27 countries, as per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Scheduled international passenger flights have remained suspended since March 23, 2020 in the wake of the pandemic and they will now restart from Sunday.

Overseas flights are being operated now under bilateral air bubble arrangements with various countries.

On March 8, the civil aviation ministry announced that regular overseas flights will resume from March 27 amid a



"We certainly have plans to open new destinations in the near future as well as pump up capacity on our existing routes as travel further opens up. Reaching economies of scale in such a dynamic environment where ATF and other fixed costs are constantly going up, becomes challenging"
– Willy Boulter



decline in coronavirus cases. The government has also revised the Covid guidelines for international flight operations, including the removal of the requirement to keep three seats vacant on overseas flights for medical emergencies.

Besides, the requirement for the crew for having a complete PPE kit has been done away with.

In a statement, IndiGo Chief Commercial Officer Willy Boulter said the airline is keen on resuming international operations back to pre-COVID levels but that will also depend on factors like arrival guidelines of various countries.

"We certainly have plans to open new destinations in the near future as well as pump up capacity on our existing routes as travel further opens up. Reaching economies of scale in such a dynamic environment where ATF and other fixed costs are constantly going up, becomes challenging," he said. IndiGo is the country's largest airline.

A DIAL spokesperson said, "Post resumption of commercial operations, South East Asia and Europe are expected to be the main drivers of further international passenger growth". DIAL, the operator of IGIA, expects to connect to over 60 international destinations after the resumption of regular overseas flights. IGIA is the country's largest airport and handled around 1.8 lakh passengers per day during pre-COVID times.

The spokesperson had also said the number of international Air Traffic Movements (ATMs) is likely to increase from 165 per day to 300 per day in summer 2022. The total weekly departures of international flights are expected to increase 66 per cent in the first week of April once the regular overseas flights commence, according to the spokesperson.

This is in comparison to the flights that operated under bilateral air bubble arrangements during winter 2021.

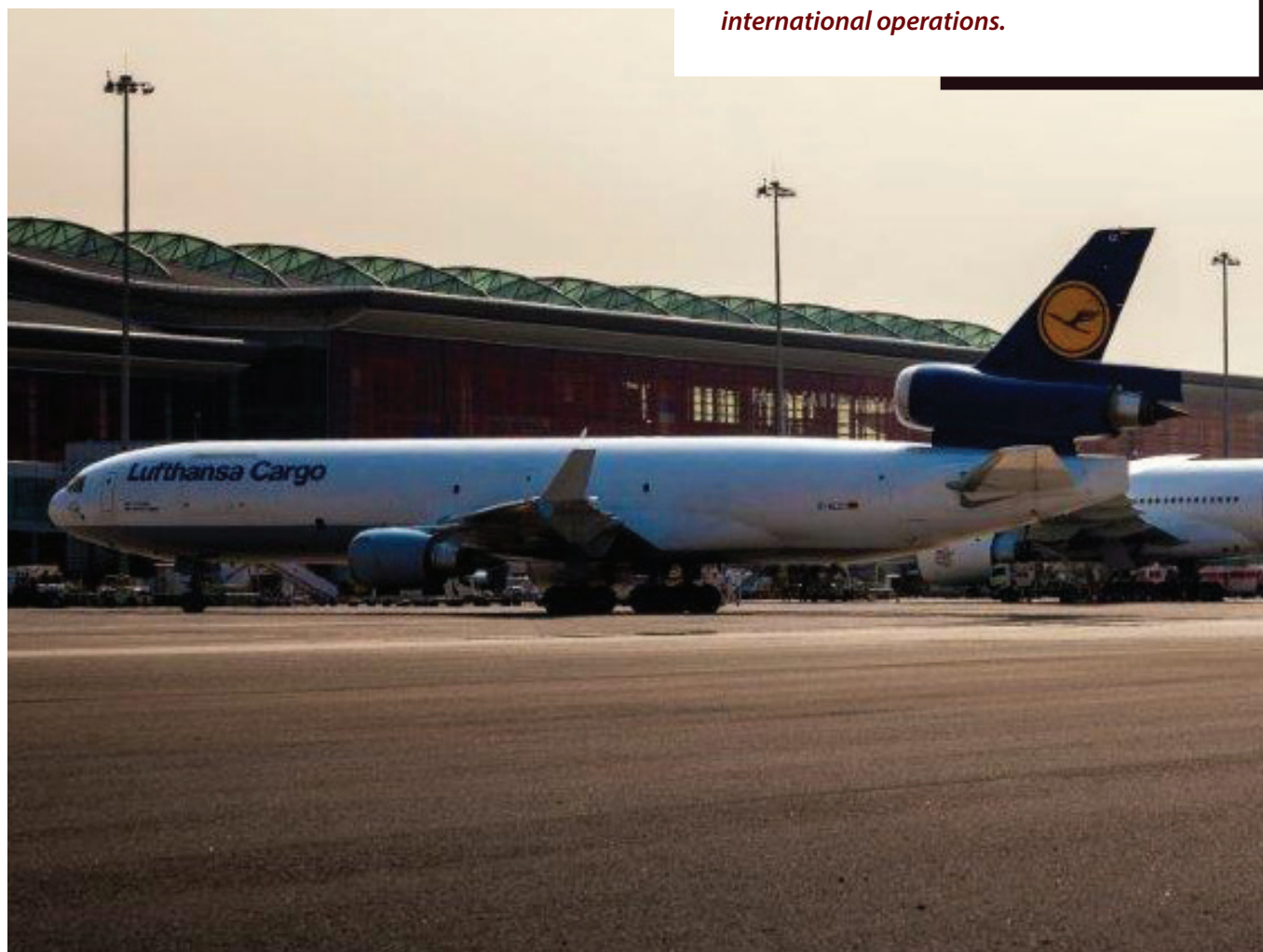
Prior to late March 2020, when the scheduled international services were stopped by India, Emirates was operating 170 weekly flights to nine destinations, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. All these flights are being restored now, starting from April 1, as per the airline.

These 170 weekly flights include 35 services to Mumbai, 28 to Delhi, 24 to Bengaluru, 21 each to Chennai and Hyderabad, 14 to Kochi, 11 to Kolkata, nine to Ahmedabad and seven to Thiruvananthapuram. SriLankan Airlines, on Friday, said it would start operating up to 88-weekly flights to India to match the pre-COVID flight schedule. The airline flies to nine cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Chennai and Bangalore.

British carrier Virgin Atlantic would start a second daily service between Delhi and London starting from June 1. Coupled with its service from Mumbai, Virgin Atlantic will offer three daily flights from India, it said on Friday.

"American Airlines is proud to serve India with daily service between New York (JFK) and New Delhi (DEL). As India resumes international flying, we look forward to expanding our presence in the country as we deepen our partnership with IndiGo and plan to launch new service between Seattle (SEA) and Bangalore (BLR) later this year," Rhett Workman, Managing Director – Europe, Middle East and Asia Operations at American Airlines, said in a statement.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in the national capital, which is also the country's largest airport, expects international flight departures to witness a significant jump in the first week of April after the resumption of regular international operations.



Hyderabad International Airport

Where “Will & Way” Meet

The book chronicles the success stories of 13 highly successful women across all spheres of the social, education, communications, economic and political spheres.

- By TN Ashok



This slim fit 76 pager is actually a serious book chronicling a powerful collection of inspirational stories of hope and perseverance by women in leadership. Authored by a Supreme Court advocate Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul, and Editor of PreSense, an editorial arm of the Chennai based NGO, the Prime Point Foundation. She is also the President of the Sansad Ratna Awards Committee which awards top performing MPs every year since the last 12 years.

The publisher and founder of the foundation K Srinivasan says “Way back in the 1900’s, mocking the conservative approach towards women and demeaning casteism, Mahakavi Bharatiyar had shared his rational revolutionary thoughts through impactful poems. His dream to see women’s empowerment and their lead roles in administration and politics has come true today. Women are performing as well as men in different spheres and walks of life, sometimes even better.

Says the author Ms. Priyadarshini Rahul, “The term women’s empowerment has seen many dimensions and has evolved in the past 100 years. Today the need is more on equal opportunity, gender equality, and women leadership acceptance, along with the right mentorship in handling bottleneck situations”.

The book chronicles the success stories of 13 highly successful women across all spheres of the social, education, communications, economic and political spheres. The stories of successful women in Banking, Sports professions are also highlighted.

The first three chapters details the success achieved by three women politicians – Ms. Supriya Sule, Lok Sabha MP, of the NCP from Baramati, Maharashtra, and daughter of the illustrious former CM and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, Ms Priyanka Chaturvedi, Rajya Sabha MP, Shiv Sena and its deputy leader, and Dr Heena Vijayakumar Gavit, Lok Sabha MP, BJP and interestingly, all of them represent Maharashtra.

Says Supriya Sule, a Sansad Vishishit Ratna awardee of the foundation, “We women are gifted with multi-tasking, and are good managers. I believe

in gender equality. I think every woman is a leader and she works 24 x 7, delivers superior results “. Her motto in life is always treat people the way you would like to be treated, .Respect and listen empathetically to others, value people and relationships. According to her the prerequisites for a successful woman are: Hard Work, Openness to new ideas, listening to others, reading up on scholarly works, and a willingness to stand for people’s development and their wellbeing.

Says Priyanka Chaturvedi, “ As a woman in a male domain, it is tough. I get trolled, character assassinated, targeted many times. However most importantly challenges are in every profession and how you react to them will decide your future I your chosen profession.” She says she has no role models. Naming one or two leaders would be gross injustice to several people who have influenced me in making me who I am. She says.

Starting her career as a journalist and media and event management professional, Priyanka, who hails from Mumbai, has been a columnist for Tehelka, Daily News and Analysis, and the Firstpost, all very popular news publications. Her favourite quote on life: “Life goes on, keep walking, and with head held high.”

Dr Heena Gavit, lok sabha MP from Nandurbar Constituency in Maharashtra of the BJP, says choosing a political career came from the fact that she hailed from a tribal district of the state. Tribal areas face lots of challenges. Lots of development needs of the area in my growing years I have seen, that the district has been almost all the times in news for malnutrition, matricides, infanticides and lots of issues to be addressed as a doctor. “ When we have family support we have a peaceful mind and when we have peaceful mind without tension, we can really perform well in whichever field we are in “, she says.

Anvayaa launches its Elder Care Services in Pune

Anvayaa, an IoT and AI tech-based personalized elderly care platform now launches its services in Pune city to serve elders of the children staying away from their parents due to unavoidable reasons. To fulfill every need of the elders and make their life easy, Anvayaa is setting up a robust eco-system in Pune city by partnering with Dr. Snehal Bodhat's Dental Clinic, SK Consultancy for Ambulance Services, SK Consultancy for Home Health Care Services, Portea Medical, Nightingales Home Health Care, New Life Cardiac Care and ICU for Cardiac Care & ICU, Hotel Lokseva for Home Food Services, HDU Healthcare Services for Home Health Care Services and also creating its in-house team of 'Care Managers' and '24x7 Care Coordinators'. Anvayaa has innovative technology platform in the country in the eldercare space for efficient care and predictable service for senior citizens and has won much national and international recognition.

Anvayaa is currently discharging its services to the elders in 6 cities and has paved the way for the elders to lead their lives with a sense of empowerment and dignity in society. According to research, health care forms only 30% of the



Mr. Prashanth Reddy,
Founder, and Managing Director,
Anvayaa Kin-Care Pvt Ltd.

services required by the elders in the society, the rest is practical and emotional support for daily needs. According to the data, Elderly population in Pune is 7,96,536/- and is growing at ~2.7% YoY. Anvayaa over the years has built a tech-enabled 360o solution for the elderly with a network of over 250 partners across domains including health care services, diagnostics and pharmacy, home maintenance, libraries, grocery, surveillance & security, local travel, lawyers, and many more to help the elders lead a life comfortably. This has been proven by the 6,000 families that have opted for Anvayaa's services in the past 6 years.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Prashanth Reddy, Founder, and Managing Director, Anvayaa Kin-Care Pvt Ltd. Said, "We are delighted to start our services at Pune. Anvayaa is helping children to look after their elderly parents while they are away from their parents. We offer a one-stop solution for the needs of the elders in society by taking care of elders' health, through regular monitoring and disruptive use of technology to provide 24x7 emergency assistance using our proprietary App both on Android and iOS.

TCS Wins Best Indian Investment Award

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been recognized with the Best Indian Investment in France Award by the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IFCCI). The award was presented by French Trade Minister Frank Reister, during his visit to India, at the Indo-French Business Awards 2022 held in New Delhi.

Rammohan Gourneni, Country Manager, TCS France, said: "We are pleased to receive the Best Indian Investment in France award by the IFCCI. This award is a recognition of TCS' ongoing commitment to the French economy through sustainable and long-term investments in talent development, innovation and economic growth in the region while supporting our customers in their growth and transformation journey."

TCS established its operations in France in 1992 and has strengthened its position not only as an IT services company but also as an ambassador of a technology-driven future. TCS works with over 80 leading French corporations, including 20 of the CAC40 including PSA, Engie, Total, BNPP, Société



TCS Workspace

Générale, Sodexo, and Alcatel Lucent.

Over the years, TCS has made several long-term investments in the country and opened three delivery centers at Paris-Suresnes, Lille and Poitiers, offering customers local support and access to TCS' deep technology and domain expertise. Today, more than 1,400 talented professionals are employed at TCS France. It is now

looking to accelerate job creation and significantly increase its local workforce in the coming months.

"The Indo-French Business Awards aim to recognize corporate excellence of our member companies. The jury was delighted to present the Choose France award to TCS in recognition of their investment in France which has been consistent and growing across key locations in France," said Payal S Kanwar, Director General, Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

TCS was ranked #1 in customer satisfaction in France and Europe, by CxOs of the largest IT spending enterprises in a study by Whitelane research.

BMW Group Plant Chennai Celebrates Crystal Anniversary

BMW Group Plant Chennai has completed 15 years of operations in the country on March 29. Following all necessary safety guidelines, the plant celebrated this significant landmark at a memorable event with all associates.

Mr. Thomas Dose, Managing Director, BMW Group Plant Chennai said, "BMW Group Plant Chennai has emerged as a centre of manufacturing excellence in the last 15 years. It is a world-class facility that locally produces 'Made in India' BMWs and MINIs with the toughest quality standards. Along with consistently modernising and building our technical competencies, we have built a very strong, connected team that outshines due to its steadfast commitment, deep value system and cultural diversity. BMW Group Plant Chennai achieves its goals every time, even under difficult situations, because of a positive attitude and high level of efficiency in all pillars. We look forward to establishing many more milestones."

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "Big congratulations to the team at BMW Group Plant Chennai on this joyous event. The plant plays the most instrumental



role in fulfilling demand for the latest, most aspirational BMW and MINI products. The unparalleled quality of our 'Made in India' cars, immaculate efficiency and fast turn-around time are key strengths of the plant that have contributed towards building a fine product offensive strategy and sales success. We are also proud of the

pioneering role that BMW Group Plant Chennai has assumed in sustainable manufacturing practices in the auto industry."

On the same day in 2007, BMW Group Plant Chennai built its first car – a BMW 3 Series. Since then, it has grown in multi-fold ways, expanding the facility, increasing operations, growing manpower and substantially increasing localisation. Recently, the plant rolled-out the 100,000th locally produced car from its assembly lines.

BMW Group Plant Chennai has set a benchmark in quality production with advanced manufacturing processes, technology, state-of-the-art machinery and skilled associates. Each car that rolls-out of the facility has the same international quality standards as any other BMW Group plant across the world.

Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai Achieves a Milestone

Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai on March 16 celebrated a remarkable milestone of its Renal Transplant Program with the successful completion of over 200 life-saving kidney transplants in three years. The achievement is especially commendable as it includes kidney transplants carried out during the challenging period

of the COVID pandemic. The 200+ kidney transplants were carried out by the experienced team of transplant specialists at Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai and are testament to their high calibre and organ-specific domain knowledge in Nephrology supported by the latest in Robotic technology.

At a press conference held to announce the 200+ kidney transplant milestone, Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai's renal transplant team presented some remarkable insights into how kidney transplants have saved lives with better short-term and long-term outcomes as compared to those patients on dialysis. The team highlighted the high success rate of over 99% with complex transplants successfully carried out including ABO-



incompatible (mismatched blood group) transplants and repeat (second) transplant cases.

Dr Amolkumar Patil, Consultant Robotic Urologist and Renal Transplant Surgeon, Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai said, "At Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai, there is a continuous upgradation of surgical technology with

minimally-invasive techniques the norm today. These allow for better postoperative pain control, faster recovery and improved aesthetic outcome, with much smaller scars that heal very quickly."

With over 99% success rates for multiple transplants in India, Apollo Hospitals Navi Mumbai Renal Transplant Centre is a beacon of quality and hope for patients not just from India, but from across the world. As international travel restrictions eased with a decrease in COVID

cases, medical value travel saw a return with the team successfully performing kidney transplant surgeries on 15 foreign patients from Yemen, Rwanda, Kenya, and Sudan.

SG Analytics Appoints Dr. Kiran Bala as CHRO

SG Analytics (SGA), a Global Insights and Analytics Company, on March 31 announced the appointment of Dr. Kiran Bala as Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO). Kiran brings over 18 years of experience leading high-performing human resources (HR) teams at global organizations, to her new role.

As CHRO, Kiran will lead SG Analytics' global HR strategy to improve operational effectiveness and align with the company's business priorities as it continues along its explosive growth story. Kiran will work along with SGA's global HR team and senior leaders to design programs that focus on employer brand, employee experience and talent practices.

"Since the last couple of years, SG Analytics has grown phenomenally in terms of revenue and team members. We now have over 1,100 team members, with more than half of them added in the last three years," said Mr. Sushant Gupta, SG Analytics Founder & CEO, "Leading a talented and global workforce is an essential ingredient for our success. As we continue to grow, Kiran's extensive global experience, clear



Dr. Kiran Bala, Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO), SG Analytics

vision, and strong leadership skills will help us attract, grow, and provide a career-defining experience to our team members."

Kiran recently served as Head of Human Resources for UST BlueConch, a global product and platform engineering company. Throughout her career, Kiran has worked with distinct companies (SKF, Persistent Systems, Schaeffler Group, IBM and M&M), cultures, and roles to lead people teams that manage all aspects of HR. She is passionate about building high performance teams, strengthening culture, and learning and development.

"A phenomenal customer experience is the result of a great employee experience," said Kiran, "SG Analytics' growth journey is enviable, and I'm excited to be a part of it. I look forward to strengthening people practices, experiencing the brand promise of Life's Possible with inclusive, meaningful, and positive work environment, and attracting best in-class talent."

The addition of Kiran as Chief Human Resources Officer to SG Analytics' executive leadership team follows the launch of a path-breaking Profit Sharing Plan, and getting certified as 'Great Place to Work,' last year.

Honda 2Wheelers India celebrates 75th year of Independence

Marking the 75th year of independence while celebrating the courage & sacrifice of the armed forces, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India flagged off H'ness CB350 'Ride for Pride' in 11 major cities across India in association with 92.7 Big FM radio station.

Over 200 riders participated in this special ride across 11 cities (New Delhi, Jammu, Lucknow, Bareilly, Kolkata, Ranchi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune). Gracing the occasion were distinguished members of the armed forces astride their H'ness CB350, further elevating everyone's spirits with their life story & anecdotes. Noteworthy, the ride culminated with a felicitation ceremony to honor the special invitees including war-veterans and martyrs' families.

Sharing his excitement during the ride, Mr. Yadvinder Singh Guleria, Director – Sales & Marketing, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Pvt. Ltd., said, "The H'ness CB350 'Ride for Pride' celebrates the courage & sacrifice of the armed forces and salutes the families of these brave hearts. Their unbridled devotion for national defense is a symbolic roar for millions of Indians to feel inspired and lead a life of courage & integrity. It is a matter of pride for us as we celebrate H'ness CB350 first anniversary milestone with members from the armed forces joining us in this ride. Revving up the excitement, 'Ride for Pride' is a token of respect & honor from team Honda 2Wheelers India to the Armed forces."



Honda celebrates 75th year of Independence with Ride for Pride

With a powerful engine and unmatched performance, H'ness CB350 delivers on its promise albeit with an unmistakable roar. The commanding riding stance & stability automatically instils confidence in the rider. Remarkably, customer response remains a testimony of the trust & love earned by H'ness CB350 in such a short span of time.

Further amplifying the pride for its riders, H'ness CB350 anniversary edition was launched as the motorcycle completed successful first year of its launch. The golden themed emblems incorporated on the tank & side panel, brown colored dual seat and chrome side-stand accentuate the motorcycle's golden heritage.

Mee Vasantao—A Superb Biopic of a Nonconformist Musician

This movie makes you introspect and like the concluding dialogue in the movie it makes you speechless too.

- By Dr Preetam Tiwari

When it comes to hero worshipping, we often tend to form a larger than real image of those whom we adore and form a hyperbolic image and put them on a very high pedestal. In the process, we negate their vulnerabilities and susceptibilities which are the hallmark of every human being. And by doing so, we unknowingly do injustice to the relentless efforts invested, sacrifices made and journey travelled by them.

Mee Vasantao is a superb biopic of a nonconformist and slightly eccentric musician who finds it difficult to balance his responsibilities as a family man and his inner urge to chart out his own course as a rebel musician. In his attempts to pursue his passion, he oversteps the boundaries of classical music which in turn ruffles the feathers of traditional musicians and music critics. Consequently he lives a life of penury.

Nipun Dharmadhikari has done an exceptional job as a director in this narrative. This movie is a fitting answer to those critics who feel that Indian biopics lack credibility because of poor research. The amount of research and hard work put in script writing, dialogues and preproduction by Nipun and his team is pretty much visible in every scene and frame. A lot has been written about Vasantao by various contemporary writers and music gurus. Some of his audio, video interviews are available for reference. While portraying his character writers have very beautifully used references from these audios, videos and written literature. While underscoring his exceptional talent and skill, Nipun has also made Vasantao's character grey enough. This makes Vasantao the character more human and the movie more real. He has shown vulnerable side of an artist without impacting the aura. There are number of scenes wherein a lot of verbos could have been used. Nipun does it the right way 'by using visual medium'. Characters hardly speak in important scenes and convey a lot through expressions, body language and eyes. This includes Vasantao's patch up with Darvekar master, Begum Akhtar or Lawani samaradni akkas appreciation for Vasantao's gayaki, his visual interactions with PL while performing...there are tons of scenes worth mentioning of.

The movie is aesthetically and technically rich as well. This would not have been possible without efforts of the team behind the camera. Camera frames, use of lights is exceptional. This gives depth to the characters and their act. The locations take you back in time and do justice to this period movie.



For me Rahul Deshpande as an actor was the biggest surprise element of this package. He is an exceptional singer for sure, but he has played Vasantao flawlessly like a seasoned and trained actor. Every song has its own sound, scale and rhythm...so as the character. Rahul has beautifully captured the sound, the scale and rhythm of the Maestro. Biopic show journey through years of life and Rahul depicts the aging so well. Vasantao's attitude, his mischief, his vulnerability, his suffocation...there is a big canvas of emotions the character goes through and Rahul wears the character so effortlessly.

Anita Date has got one of the best roles of her career and she has grabbed the opportunity with both hands. Vasantao's mother's tough, no nonsense yet caring attitude stands out in her act and she makes her presence felt in every scene. Dialogues written for PL are crisp and witty.

Music is the CORE strength of this movie. Vasantao believed in experimentation, in learning from all walks of life. The music of this movie also orchestrates this thought of Vasantao's... Apart from some well known Classical bandish's, the movie also has varied genre of music. It has flavors of Abhang, Natya sangeet, Kirtan, Bhavgeet, Lawani and Punjabi Sufi sangeet. Ram Ram by Shreya Ghoshal, Punav Raticha by Rahul Deshpande and Urmila Dhakar stands out.

A very big thank you to producer Chandrashekhar Gokhale. The movie has been made with lot of passion and love. I wish, movies like 'Mee Vasantao' are considered for movie appreciation workshops. Classics are produced even today with a lot of taste and craftwork.

In today's world of instant gratification, wherein definition of good gets decided by few hundred likes and hundred odd comments in a days time...this movie makes you introspect and like the concluding dialogue in the movie it makes you speechless too.

Narendra Goidani



Narendra Goidani (Naren) is the Founder of Life School in 2010 with a vision to inspire people and make this world a better place to live in. His organisation conducts Life Transformation programmes across all age groups, across various cities and towns in India.

10 Must Have Behavioral Traits for Any Entrepreneur

It was a Sunday morning and along with a few friends we had gone for breakfast. To my joy I saw an old time friend Anupam Jindal there. The last time we met, Anupam was the CFO of Sterlite Technologies Ltd.

We exchanged pleasantries and caught up on life in general. As he bid us farewell, he shared that he has started his own venture (www.laposies.com). I was delighted to hear about it. He looked excited too and I was so glad for him.

Entrepreneurship is the new craze and many experienced professionals are now exploring ways to open their own start-ups.

Even the govt. is encouraging start-ups and we have seen an exponential growth in the number of new ventures that open every day.

I love the idea of start ups for various reasons...

I love to dream. Startups are all about dreaming and backing up the dream with action.

I love courage. Startup founders are truly a courageous bunch for they are willing to invest their time, money and energy on an idea they believe in.

I love being hands on. Startup founders are all 'super hands on' people. In the initial stages, everyone in the team does everything, and everyone needs to be good at everything. Delegation and silos come much later.

I love an open door policy. All startups are open doors all the time. Anyone can walk in the founders room any time and ask/suggest/ debate freely. That's awesome for teamwork and creativity.

To all the startup founders, a huge salute to you. I am cheering for you and rooting for you to succeed big time.

Here is a small contribution from my side. Here is a list of 10 habits that will help you scale your venture to new heights! Develop each one of them without leaving anyone out. And watch the magic unfold. Disclosure - While I did write this article keeping startups in mind, most of these points are crucial to every business enterprise.

Get Ready for MESS: In the army there is a wise saying, 'All the plans fail as the boots hit the ground'. In spite of your best plans, things will go wrong. Sometimes, in a big way.

The supplier that you counted upon, will disappoint you.

That employee that you trusted so much, won't turn up for work.

The customer who promised you your first project, will feign helplessness.

The agency that promised you miracles, will turn out to be unreliable.

Be ready for all of this and more. Why? Because you are passionate about your idea and 'come what may', you have DECIDED to succeed. Persist. At the end of the mess, lies beauty. Hold on and the beauty will be yours.

Discipline: However basic it may sound, but discipline is the most important trait any entrepreneur must incorporate in their daily life.

Discipline inspires confidence.

Discipline ensures you do 'first things first' and you get it 'first time right'. In the face of chaos, it is your discipline that keeps things in control. Discipline ensures distractions do not take you off track. Discipline ensures, you stay focussed on things that matter the most.

Meetings: Be a master of conducting meetings. Much time gets wasted in unnecessary meetings. Meetings that should not take more than 15 minutes get stretched to hours. I prefer loads of 'standing meetings'. Conduct the meeting with everyone standing. You will be surprised to find efficacy in standing meetings. Meetings will be short, to-the-point and productive. Isn't that the objective of having the meetings? By the way, on a lighter note, I do not recommend such meetings with clients !!!

Relax: Know what relaxes you and do that often. It is super important that you stay relaxed. A frantic or a tensed or a stressed or a panicked YOU, is the last thing your business needs. Your best will come when you are relaxed. As the CEO of your organisation, you need to be an ACE in getting the best out of people. You can do that, only when you are relaxed, right? As a CEO, you are certainly going to work long hours. You can do that when you know how to stay relaxed, right? By the way, as you are reading this, you are relaxed, right? If no, then, smile please. See! Something as simple as that helps you to relax. YESSSSSS. Smile more than you do. Relax more than you do. It is necessary for your business.



There is a misconception that 'getting things done' must be your strength for you to succeed. GAP International, the world's leading research firm, found that only 8% CEOs of the Fortune 500 believe their best comes out with the mindset of 'getting things done'. Exceptional Entrepreneurs are people who make people believe in themselves through appreciation, motivation, providing support systems and grooming them through timely opportunities.

Leadership and being a team player: There is a misconception that 'getting things done' must be your strength for you to succeed. GAP International, the world's leading research firm, found that only 8% CEOs of the Fortune 500 believe their best comes out with the mindset of 'getting things done'. Exceptional Entrepreneurs are people who make people believe in themselves through appreciation, motivation, providing support systems and grooming them through timely opportunities. When they do that, capable people respond brilliantly.

They stretch.

They take the crucial calls.

They stand up to be counted.

They rally around when the chips are down.

They surprise everyone with their industriousness.

They solve more than what was expected from them.

All this is done with devotion and a sense of ownership. Now, this is what I call true leadership. It is not about giving people the ultimatum of 'perform or perish'. It is about helping people to rise and shine. That is how we create team players.



Warning! Be selective in implementing feedback. Carefully and dispassionately, analyse the feedback. Whatever is appropriate, must be acted upon. Let go of ego and take constructive feedback in order to rectify errors and avoid foreseen pitfalls. On a lighter note, I often say, the issue is in the word itself. Feedback makes me think, it will take me BACK.

Find a MENTOR: One of the compulsory things that we suggest to every entrepreneur is to find a mentor. Small advice goes a long way in helping entrepreneurs from making avoidable mistakes. The mentor's experience gives perspectives that the wannabe entrepreneur would have otherwise missed. These perspectives may be the crucial difference between failure and success. The journey towards success is easier, faster and efficient with a mentor. Want to know who can be the right mentor for you?

Those who have done what you wish to do

Those who love to develop others.

Those who have an interest in your idea

Ability to take feedback: I cannot over emphasise the need to take feedback in the right spirit. No mother likes to be told they have an ugly baby. Entrepreneurs are possessive of their ideas. Subconsciously, they crave for validations much more than they seek feedback.


However, feedback plays a huge role in 'developing' business ideas. Be open to feedback. Warning! Be selective in implementing feedback. Carefully and dispassionately, analyse the feedback. Whatever is appropriate, must be acted upon. Let go of ego and take constructive feedback in order to rectify errors and avoid foreseen pitfalls. On a lighter note, I often say, the issue is in the word itself. Feedback makes me think, it will take me BACK. I recommend people to change the word feedback in their mental dictionary to FEEDFRONT. Maybe, it will become easier to accept it. What do you say?

Networking: Imagine, a spider with one strand vs imagine the spider with its web. What do you think will be more effective for the spider in catching its prey? Similarly, working alone vs

working 'with a network' has huge differences. Meeting new people and establishing mutually beneficial relationships adds value to any venture. It takes time to network. It takes effort to network. It takes genuinity to network. Networking helps you leapfrog. Networking helps you in making things happen through a phone call that miles of mails can never achieve. There are some essential rules for networking. One of them being, give much more than you wish to take. Will elaborate on that and discuss other networking points in another article another day.

Research: Curiosity killed the cat, but in case of a business venture, absence of curiosity kills the business. Researching about the industry and competition and clients gives valuable insights that assist in designing future plans and avoiding unnecessary losses.

Relentlessly hard working: There is absolutely no shortcut to hard work and every successful businessman will share anecdotes of sleepless nights and pre-dawn work schedules. It takes blood, sweat, luck, initiative and dedication to emerge successful in any endeavour. Get ready to tighten your belts, get ready with a big pot of masala chai (that is what I prefer), and forget about work-life balance till you are standing on your feet. Get ready to burn the midnight oil often. Ahaa! What will make all this possible is your ability to enjoy it as it happens. Have a music system around. Create a great playlist for yourself. Groove a little now and then, crack jokes while things are chaotic, and work harder than everybody you have ever known.

I am sure you already have most of these habits. I am also sure you are a role model in many of them too. Wishing you an outstanding life as an entrepreneur. All the very best. 

“UDAN” Scheme Selected for Award

The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans and commits to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN RCS scheme by the year 2026.

- A PIB Report



Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) flagship Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshKaAamNagrik) has been selected for Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020 under the category “Innovation (General) – Central”.

Government of India has initiated this award to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts and Organizations of State/ Government. This scheme emphasises on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets. The award consists of a trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs 10 lakhs.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation will receive the award on 21st April, i.e. Civil Service Day. A special event is being organized by Government of India at Vigyan Bhawan on the occasion of “Civil Service Day” where the representative of the ministry will be facilitated with the award.


Launched in 2016, UDAN scheme aims to fulfil the aspirations of the common man by following the vision of UdeDeshKaAamNagrik, with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and III cities. In a short span of 5 years, today 415 UDAN routes connect 66 underserved/unserved airports, including heliports and water aerodromes, and over 92 lakh people have benefited from it. More than 1 lakh 79 thousand flights have flown

under this scheme. UDAN scheme has immensely benefitted several sectors pan-India including Hilly States, North-Eastern region, and Islands.

UDAN has a positive impact on the economy of the country and has witnessed an excellent response from industry stakeholders especially airlines operators and state governments. More than 350 new city pairs are now scheduled to be connected under the scheme, with 200 already connected and are widely spread geographically providing connectivity across the length and breadth of the country as well as ensuring balanced regional growth resulting in economic growth and employment to local population.

The scheme also led to development of new Green Field Airports such as Pakyong near Gangtok in Sikkim, Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh. The scheme also led to 5% incremental growth in domestic passenger share of non-metro airports.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation plans and commits to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN RCS scheme by the year 2026.

Recently, Ministry of Civil Aviation tableau was named as the best central ministry tableau for Republic Day 2022. The tableau of Ministry of Civil Aviation showcased Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (UdeDeshKaAamNagrik) as its central theme. 

A *Wildlife* Extravaganza in BR Hills

One of the most beautiful wildlife destinations in Karnataka, BR Hills is less explored. It is a perfect weekend getaway in the lap of Mother Nature with wildlife encounters and an ambience of tranquility.

With the sun splashing its colors on the trees in the morning, the same road looks very different

BR Hills, or Biligiri Rangana Betta, is a perfect weekend getaway from Bangalore that is just 170 km away with a 4-hour drive. The rolling hill where two prominent mountain ranges of Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats meet is BRT Wildlife Sanctuary of Karnataka. It is spread over 540 square kilometers. The stunning landscape amid lush green forests and meandering roads make for a perfect road trip.

The drive to BR Hills on Kanakapura Road is quite smooth on NH948 especially during the early morning. The last stretch of 15 km after Yelandur Forest check post takes you through the winding roads of BR Hills forest. This is where you are likely to have close encounters with plenty of wildlife.



BR Hills Lake is a hotspot to sight animals during the dry season

Summer had already set in and it was rather warm even though we were climbing the hill, but it is the ideal time to spot wildlife. The vegetation starts drying up and they are forced to come out of the bushes in search of water. We were the only ones on the road and that gave us enough opportunities to spot and click them. If you reach early and visit during the non-peak season, then you are more likely to get your own space to be with nature.

Our next encounter was with a group of Dholes (Indian Wild Dogs). All of them ran away as we approached closer, but one of them was posing to be clicked. Dholes are known as fearless communal pack hunters. Even though they are from the Dog family, they don't bark. These interesting creatures with long tails, red fur and short muzzles are gradually making it to the list of endangered animals. They are majorly found in the Western Ghats of South India. We were lucky to spot them on our first day but we didn't know that a huge surprise awaited us the following day.

Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple BR Hills

Biligiri means "White Cliff", Rangana means "Lord Ranganatha/Vishnu" and Betta means "Hills" in Kannada. A 400-year-old ancient Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is located atop the hill at 5,000 feet and is one of the most important places to visit in BR Hills. The BR Hills Temple is associated with folklore. It is believed that Lord Ranganatha fell in love with a girl from the local Soliga tribe and married her. The

heirs of the Soliga tribe consider Lord Ranganatha to be their brother-in-law and worship him.

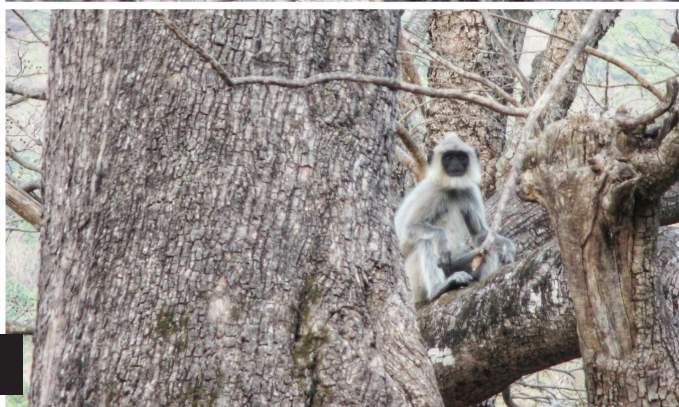
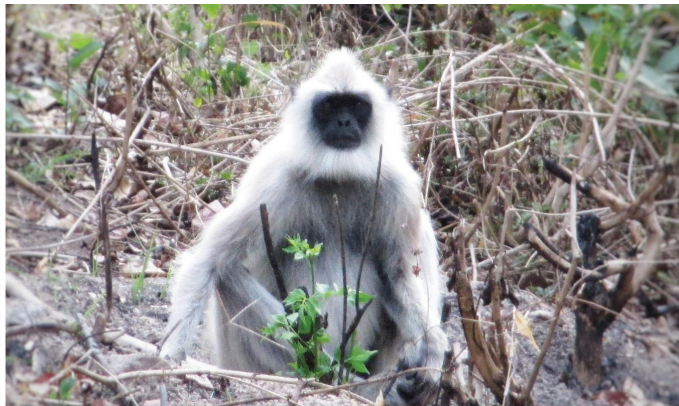
There are 150 steps to reach the temple from the parking bay. You pass through numerous stalls and individual vendors selling flowers and stuff for the offering at the temple. The temple has a rich history. The Soliga tribe still believes that Lord Ranganatha Swamy wanders around the BR Hills forest at night. That's why they offer a new pair of large leather slippers to God every two years. During the evening, the view from the temple is breathtaking.

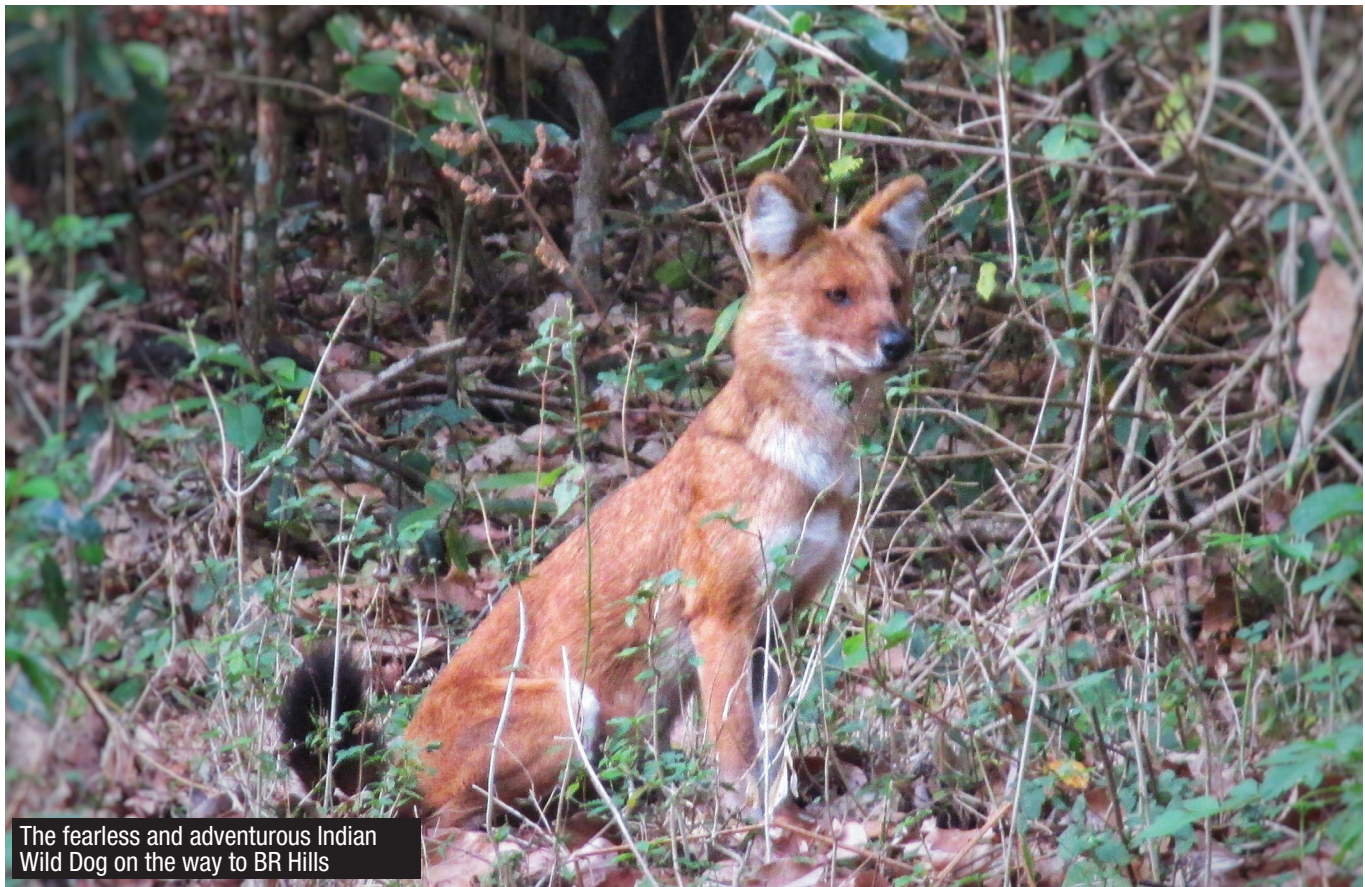
As someone who regularly visits BR Hills, I have seen the beauty of the mornings. My favorite place to see birds is BR Hills forest guesthouse in the early hours. Atop a hillock, it offers a breathtaking view of the forest and the winding roads that lead to the temple on the far hill. It is the best place to relax in the solitude and the silence of nature.

Biligiri means "White Cliff", Rangana means "Lord Ranganatha/Vishnu" and Betta means "Hills" in Kannada. A 400-year-old ancient Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple is located atop the hill at 5,000 feet and is one of the most important places to visit in BR Hills.



Black-faced Langur of Western Ghats, their white fur makes them easy to spot but their agility poses a challenge for the best click





The fearless and adventurous Indian Wild Dog on the way to BR Hills



Beautifully designed BR Hills Forest Guest House atop the hill with French windows and a patio

My wildlife experience with Bison family

One of my favorite pastimes in BR Hills is to drive along the forest roads. This is the best way to spot wildlife. I have been lucky a few times. During one of these drives on the deserted roads in one afternoon, I was greeted by a Bison family. The entire road was empty and we got about 15 min to watch them grazing around with that "care-free" attitude. They were least bothered with our presence.

Bison is a huge and deadly animal. They are usually found as a family with the male navigating the herd. Bison account for killing more humans than all other wild animals combined. You need to be watchful especially when they are with a baby.

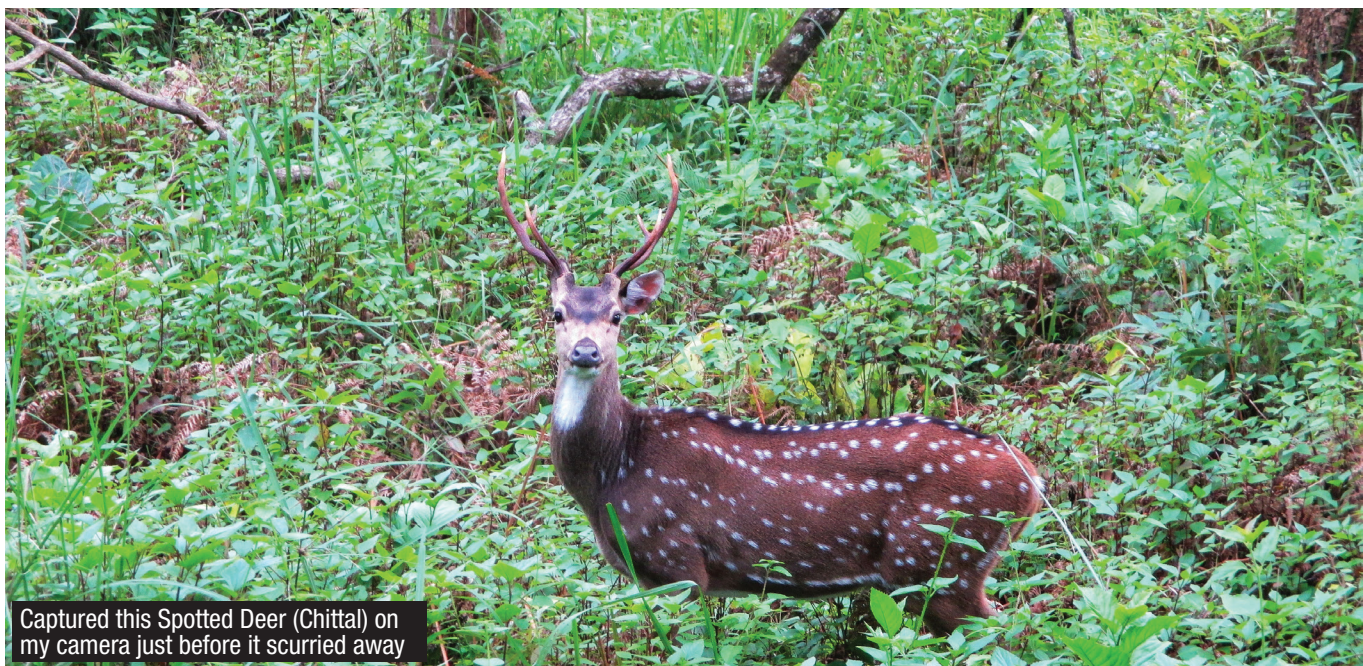
K Gudi Wilderness Camp

There are not many places to visit in BR Hills apart from enjoying nature's splendor, something I am very much fond of. We took every opportunity to drive through those beautiful and meandering roads with the green landscape. This time we drove towards Kyathadevara Gudi, popularly known as K Gudi.

“ Our next encounter was with a group of *Dholes (Indian Wild Dogs)*. All of them ran away as we approached closer, but one of them was posing to be clicked. *Dholes are known as fearless communal pack hunters. Even though they are from the Dog family, they don't bark.*



Rahuldev Rajguru is the CEO of Turuhi, a resource for verified & unbiased travel content. He has traveled to 62 countries and lived in 6. An insatiable thirst for adventure and discovery of the unknown has taken him to offbeat destinations. He is a road tripper with 250,000 kilometers of worldwide road tripping. He has been a travel writer for 7 years. He can be reached at info@turuhi.com.



Captured this Spotted Deer (Chital) on my camera just before it scurried away

The BRT Wildlife Sanctuary has a K Gudi wilderness camp, which is run and managed by Jungle Lodges. They also provide accommodation inside the sanctuary if you wish to stay overnight. In addition, they offer jeeps safaris that will take you inside the forest on designated routes, either in the morning or in the evening. This entire area was once a hunting lodge for the erstwhile Kings of Mysore state.

The road inside BRT Wildlife Sanctuary remains closed for vehicles between 6 pm and 6 am. I ensured we reached the check post no later than 6 am the next morning as we wanted to be the only ones inside the forest as long as possible. Wildlife spotting requires a lot of luck and some amount of planning. It also depends on which time of the year and what time of the day you visit BR Hills. We had hardly driven for 15 min inside the dense forest and a pleasant surprise awaited us.

I had to suddenly jam brakes on the road. A group of about 10 Dholes might have spotted their prey and some of

them had occupied the entire road. No complaints for this road block because it's their home and we were the guests. We were thrilled because this is a rare sight. We spent half an hour with them and they were unfazed by our presence. Probably, it was our lucky day.

It was an impromptu and unplanned trip but memorable for all of us. We thoroughly enjoyed our much-needed break. We had never expected to see so many animals. This prompted me to make a couple of trips to BR Hills thereafter but I was never so lucky. However, I am not a person who will give up. I will be heading there again soon.

The Soliga tribe still believes that Lord Ranganatha Swamy wanders around the BR Hills forest at night. That's why they offer a new pair of large leather slippers to God every two years. During the evening, the view from the temple is breathtaking.



A beautiful sunset from the temple that splashes its colors on the dam below the hill



Lunch is over; it's time for water before they disappear into the bushes

“ I have seen the beauty of the mornings. My favorite place to see birds is BR Hills forest guesthouse in the early hours. Atop a hillock, it offers a breathtaking view of the forest and the winding roads that lead to the temple on the far hill.



A rare sight to spot these fearless pack hunters in a group



GETTING THERE

By Road or By Air: There are direct flights to Bangalore from all over the country. BR Hills can be reached via Kanakapura road through Yelandur or via Mysore through Chamrajnagar.

Where to stay: BR Hills offers only a few options for eating and staying except for a few resorts within the forest. KSTDC has a budget hotel, Mayura Biligiri, and there are a few homestays.

Cuisine: There is no specific cuisine associated with this place. There are not many proper restaurants either. There are mostly makeshift stalls on the main road where they sell Omelette, Bhajjis, rice, etc.

Safety: This place is quite safe for the tourists. However, it is a forest so one needs to exercise caution especially when the daylight fades. This forest is teeming with Tigers and Elephants and you may not want an unwarranted encounter with them. Please DO NOT compromise your safety by venturing out of your vehicles inside the forest roads to click pictures of wildlife.

Travel Tips: Dry season from December to April is the best time to visit BR Hills of Karnataka. This is the time where you have a better chance of sighting wild animals inside BRT Wildlife Sanctuary and near K Gudi Wilderness Camp. This place is a trekker's paradise. However, you do need permission from the forest department and must venture out in the company of a local tribesman.

“A group of about 10 Dholes might have spotted their prey and some of them had occupied the entire road. No complaints for this road block because it's their home and we were the guests. We were thrilled because this is a rare sight. We spent half an hour with them and they were unfazed by our presence.”

Zurich

The Land of Chocolates, Cheese and Watches

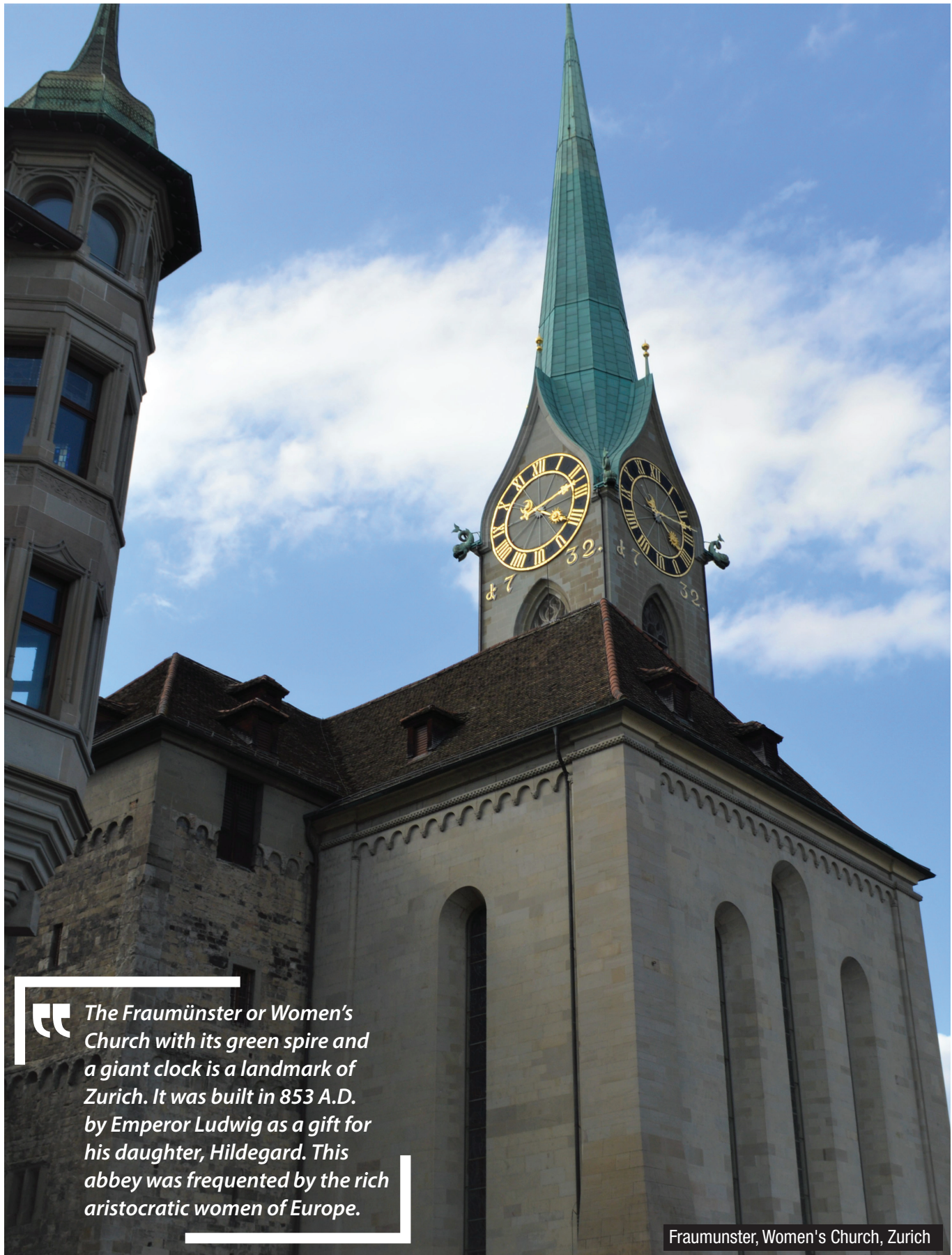
*From high end shopping districts,
churches, an old town to lakes and
parks this city has a lot to offer.*

– By Shameera Somani

Switzerland is known among other things for its Alps, chocolates, cheese, and watches. Zurich is the largest city in Switzerland and is the financial and commercial centre. It's the preferred destination for most travelers entering Switzerland. University of Zurich was the first to accept women students and it is here that Albert Einstein completed his PhD and taught too. From high end shopping districts, churches, an old town to lakes and parks Zurich has a lot to offer.



Great Minister, Zurich



“

The Fraumünster or Women's Church with its green spire and a giant clock is a landmark of Zurich. It was built in 853 A.D. by Emperor Ludwig as a gift for his daughter, Hildegard. This abbey was frequented by the rich aristocratic women of Europe.

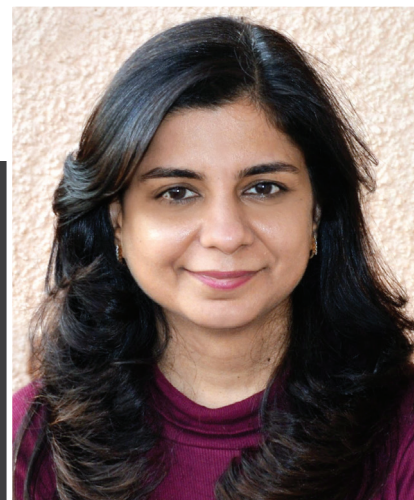
Fraumunster, Women's Church, Zurich

After visiting the magnificent Swiss Alps, we decided to explore Zurich before we took a flight back home. From Interlaken, we took a train to Zurich with a changeover at Seipz. The scenic journey was extremely smooth in airconditioned trains with comfortable seating.

Regular announcements and clearly defined compartments and signposts ensure that there is hassle free travel. Zurich is a charming mix of a quaint old town nestled within a modern upscale city. Electric trams meander on its main roads, while its narrow-cobbled streets and boulevards are lined by chic bistros, restaurants and shops. The Uetliberg Mountain provides a panoramic view of the city, while the Zurich lake and Limmat riverside are frequented and buzzing with locals and travelers alike.

We decided to explore the city on a guided tour not on a bus, tram or car but an eco-friendly electric Tuk-Tuk! Our friendly driver-guide Diego met us at Hauptbahnhof Main Railway Station and took us on a 1 ½ hour tour of the city. We could stop and get off the tuk-tuk whenever we wanted to explore something from close quarters or if we came across something interesting. Right next to the station was the Gothic castle-like Swiss National Museum which is home to entire collections related to Swiss history and culture, some dating as back to 100,000BC.

Our guide explained that unlike the U.S.A. where buildings are multistoried, in the Old Town of Zurich they have 2-3 basements. The reason being that the city wanted to be safe from the bombings that the country had witnessed during the wars.



Shameera Somani is an award winning nutritionist, teacher and content writer. A former director of Aga Khan Health Service, India she currently serves the Aga Khan Health Board for India. Her love for travel involves visiting World Heritage Sites across the globe.



Eating Joint near Zurich Lake, Zurich



Swiss Cuckoo Clocks



Trams in Old Town, Zurich



The Old town situated on the banks of Limmat river has some beautiful churches. St. Peter's Church, in the Old Town, is the oldest church in Zurich and has the largest clock dial in Europe measuring around 8.7 meters in diameter.

The Grossmünster or Great Minister, with its twin towers that dot the Old town's skyline, is Zurich's principal church. It was here that the Protestant Reformation, that caused a split from Roman Catholic church, began in the 16th Century under the patron Zwingli. The Fraumünster or Women's Church with its green spire and a giant clock is a landmark of Zurich. It was built in 853 A.D. by Emperor Ludwig as a gift for his daughter, Hildegard. This abbey was frequented by the rich aristocratic women of Europe.

It is popular amongst tourists for its stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall. Limmatquai, the promenade along the river, has a number of guild-houses the most important being the Rathaus or Town Hall.

The Zurich Lake is where we went next. The periphery of the lake had numerous gardens and parks. The Zürichhorn Park is where families gather for picnics, recreation and a swim in the



Trams in Zurich

lake. It has a metal sculpture 'Huereka' by Jean Tinguely who is known for his sculptural machines artwork. Since spring had set in, and the gardens were in full bloom with tulips, poppies and other flowers in a riot of bright colours. Families and tourists were seen lazing and enjoying the scenic views of the lake and the hills alongside it. Since it was Easter week a lot of families were in holiday mood, while others had escaped to the mountains to make the most of the long weekend.

Our guide explained that the rich and affluent had their premium homes on the lower eastern side of the lake. The Goldcoast, as it is called, is sought after by the rich and famous because it's from here that one gets a spectacular view of the sunsets behind the mountains. Yester year singer Tina Turner has a home here! While the poor and middle class live on the opposite shore called "Sniffle Coast" as it is in the shadow of the mountains .A relaxing ferry ride on shimmering lake Zurich can be enjoyable.

The next place that we visited was Bahnhofstrasse which can be described as the Fifth Avenue of Zurich. This is one of the most luxurious shopping streets in Europe and is thronged by both the rich and famous, as well as the ordinary people wanting to get a glimpse of high end shops and fashion. It boasts of international fashion



Zurich is a charming mix of a quaint old town nestled within a modern upscale city. Electric trams meander on its main roads, while its narrow-cobbled streets and boulevards are lined by chic bistros, restaurants and shops. The Uteliberg Mountain provides a panoramic view of the city, while the Zurich lake and Limmat riverside are frequented and buzzing with locals and travelers alike.

labels, accessories, jewelry and watches all smartly decked in shopping windows to tempt the fashion conscious. On the lower level of Bahnhofstrasse 31 is the clock and watch museum which has an impressive collection of watches and time pieces. Switzerland is famous for its Cuckoo Clocks that are a popular souvenir.

We then passed the Swiss Bank and the discussion soon turned towards all the corrupt politicians, industrialist and celebrities from India and perhaps other countries too who were rumored to have stashed all their black money here!

Sechseläutenplatz or Sechseläuten square is the largest town square situated in Zurich. Our guide explained how the Swiss people gather here and celebrate the Sechseläuten Spring Festival in April that heralds the arrival of spring. A "Böögg" (snowman stuffed with fire crackers) is kept on a high pyre and the bonfire is lit in the evening. The

Swiss believe that the faster the Böögg's head explodes the longer the summer will be. Families and friends assemble for sausage grilling, as music is played by the bands and festivities continue till the wee hours of the night. We missed witnessing this festival by a week.

Our guide explained that unlike the U.S.A. where buildings are multistoried, in the Old Town of Zurich they have 2-3 basements. The reason being that the city wanted to be safe from the bombings that the country had witnessed during the wars.



Old Town, Zurich

If you have a sweet tooth then a chocolate experience is a not be missed affair. The swiss chocolates known for their incomparable taste, just melt in your mouth and can be sinful temptations! And if that's not enough the bonbons, truffles, and macrons are simply an irresistible delight.

One can undertake several day trips from Zurich. The Jungfrau: Top of Europe day trip in Swiss Alps, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is what we did and is highly recommended. The other option is to do a Mount Pilatus or Mount Titlis trip in Lucerne. Rhine Falls which are Europe's largest plain waterfalls is another option for a day trip.

Zurich is a medley of old and new. The efficient transport system, clean and fresh air, warm people and sweet delights will certainly charm you and more than make up for it being an expensive city. Spring is the best time to savour the scenic and sweet wonders of Switzerland. 🇨🇭

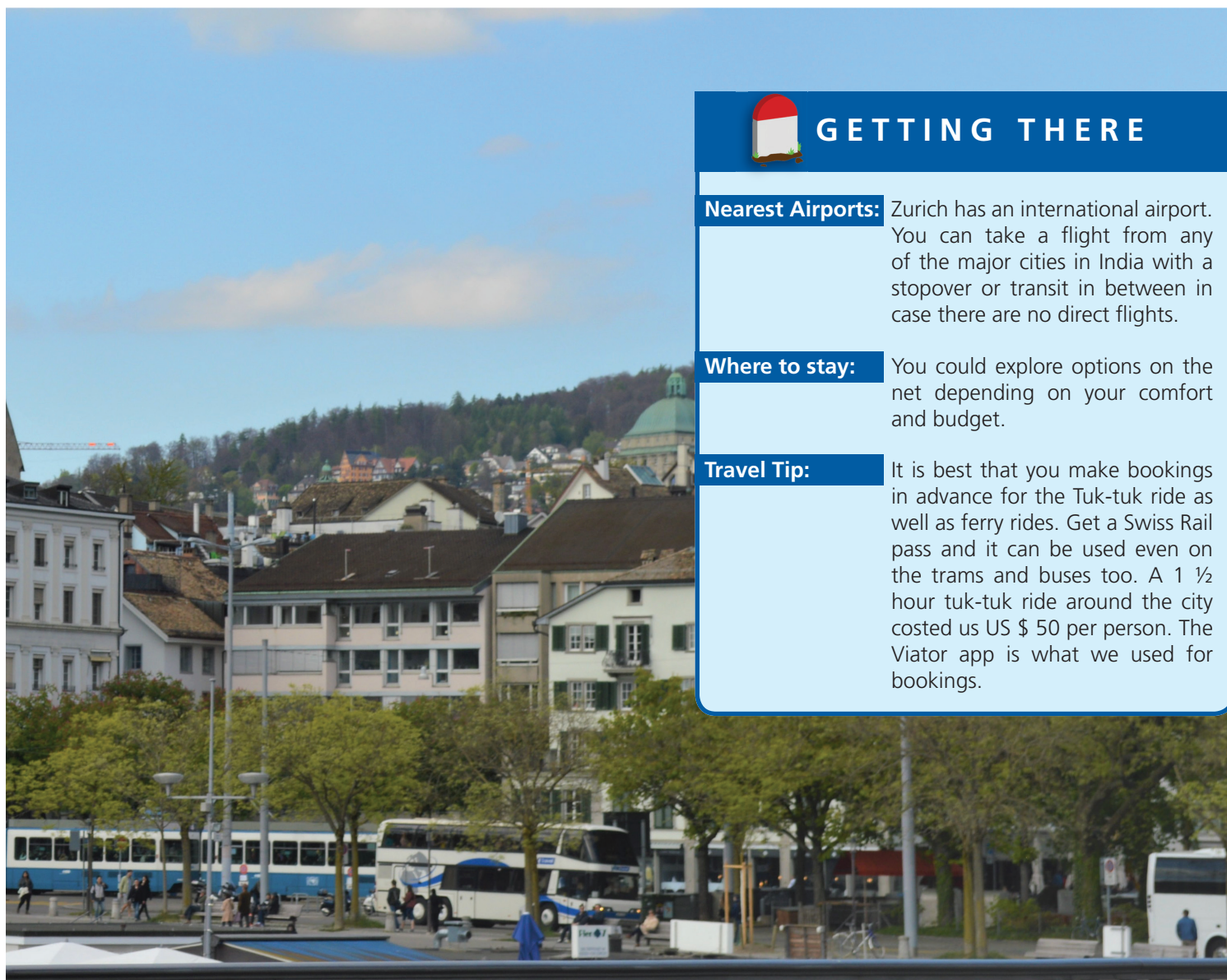


GETTING THERE

Nearest Airports: Zurich has an international airport. You can take a flight from any of the major cities in India with a stopover or transit in between in case there are no direct flights.

Where to stay: You could explore options on the net depending on your comfort and budget.

Travel Tip: It is best that you make bookings in advance for the Tuk-tuk ride as well as ferry rides. Get a Swiss Rail pass and it can be used even on the trams and buses too. A 1 ½ hour tuk-tuk ride around the city costed us US \$ 50 per person. The Viator app is what we used for bookings.



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