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Chandigarh, the City Beautiful

On 15th August 2009, India celebrated 62 years of freedom.

Travelling to Chandigarh this month, I was reminded of its significance. The city was commissioned in the 1950s by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to symbolise Independent India. Built by the French architect Le Corbusier, it is renowned for its architecture and urban planning.

Capital of two states, Punjab and Haryana, it enjoys the highest per capita income in the country. The prestigious city has other 'firsts' to its credit. In 2007 it was the first Indian city to become smoke free and in 2008, completely banned use of polythene bags.

Sports enthusiasts love Chandigarh. The city has a world class golf course, cricket stadiums, swimming pools, shooting ranges, skating rinks and hockey stadiums. It is no wonder that the city boasts of residents like Olympics gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, international golfer Jeev

Milkha Singh and cricketers Kapil Dev & Yuvraj Singh. A well known university town, Chandigarh is emerging as outsourcing hub. Key Indian and multinational firms have set up shop in its new IT Park.

Recognizing the vast potential, this year major hotel chains announced plans to enter the city. The Taj already opened its hotel over four years ago.

For visitors, the city has varied attractions: Rose Garden, Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake, Government Museum and Art Gallery and the Sector 17 market. Chandigarh can be included in circuits that go to Dharamsala, Shimla, Amritsar.

So think of promoting the 'City Beautiful' !

(Kiran Joti signature)

Vice President & Business Head



More Connectivity

Kingfisher Airlines has introduced a daily direct flights between Kolkata and Bangkok effective August 14, 2009. The launch of this new route will mark the first time that Kingfisher Airlines will be commencing operations from India to South East Asia.

Etihad Airways to introduce Abu Dhabi-Hyderabad service effective November 2009. Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways will begin non-stop flights to Hyderabad from November this year. Initially, the service will be four times every week and will become daily from the start of 2010. The addition of Hyderabad brings the number of Indian destinations served by Etihad to seven.

Finnair to restart operations from Mumbai to Europe effective October 18, 2009. According to an IANS report, Finnair will restart its operations from Mumbai to Europe from October 18, 2009, with brand new fleet of Airbus 330 aircraft. Initially the airline will start operations with three flights a week, with a configuration of 42 Business Class seats and 229 Economy Class seats

The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in New Delhi will have a dedicated terminal for private jets and chartered flights in two years. According to a report, the special terminal will come up near the existing domestic airport or might also begin from the international Terminal 2 of IGI.

AirAsia to start daily direct services from Kochi to Kuala Lumpur effective October 1, 2009. The Low Cost carrier based in Kuala Lumpur, will start daily direct flight services from Kochi to Kuala Lumpur using A320 aircraft that has a seating capacity of 180 people. The airline which presently has daily direct flights from Trichy (Tamil Nadu) to Kuala Lumpur has now decided to add one more daily flight on this route, effective September 1, 2009.



More Accommodation

Leela Palace Kempinski opens in Udaipur. With its breathtaking view of the Aravali Mountains Leela Palace stands majestically on the banks of Lake Pichola. Evoking the grandeur and opulence of a bygone era, all 72 Rooms and 8 Suites overlook the tranquil waters of the lake. Heritage and Lake View rooms are finely appointed with artefacts and furnishings representing the handicrafts of Rajasthan.

Rajputana Nahargarh, 45 kms from Chittorgarh on the way to Bundi and Kota, had a soft opening with 20 Rooms is on 14th August, 2009. The hotel is located in the middle of the lake and will have total 40 rooms inclusive 3 Suites. It has an infinity pool overlooking lake, restaurant, bar and Conference Hall. In second phase there will be a 9 holes Golf Course. It will be fully operational will be from 1st October, 2009.

Kerala Palace, a new resort, has been taken on lease by Somatheeram Group of hotels and should be operational by September 2009. It is located 30 kms from Cochin city en route to Kumrakom. Accessibility to this Palace is only by boat. It is an elegant property built on traditional Kerala architecture with 21 standard rooms and 04 suites.

It has a restaurant with 24 covers, big sprawling lawns, good swimming pool, full fledged Ayurvedic centre.

Resorts located inside Royal Chitwan National Park are advised to close by the concerned Govt. Authority for the time being as lease time has been expired. Resorts affected are Tiger Tops Lodge and Camp, Temple Tiger Jungle Lodge, Machan Wildlife Resort, Gaida Lodge Chitwan Jungel Lodge & Island Jungle Lodge. Higher level talks with Hotel Associations, National Park and concerned ministers are in progress to resolve the issue, however as on date the deadlock still persist.

The Passing of an Era

Rajmata Gayatri Devi of Jaipur passed away at the age of 90 on 30 July. Maharani Gayatri Devi was listed as one of the most beautiful women in the world by Vogue.

Visitors to the Taj Mahal shall find a more user friendly new ticket counter along with clock room and a nearby cafeteria. The facility was inaugurated by the Commissioner of Agra for guests visiting the Taj from the Eastern Gate (near Amar Vilas). Also Agra Development Authority has introduced new 10 seater battery operated Golf Carts from Shilpgram parking to Taj Mahal and back.

India Art Summit held at Pragati Maidan (19-22 August 2009). This second edition of India's Modern and Contemporary Art Fair is fairly large in scale and scope. With 55 top galleries from India, the Asian region, Middle East, Europe and the United States showcasing a range of artworks, it is definitely richer than its starting year. Together with an extensive seminars programme, curated projects, art films, social events, art publications & more; India Art Summit offers to the world, a rich and fulfilling art experience in India.



Celebration Time



- Indian Routes celebrated the completion of 01 year of operations in a unique manner. We organised a lunch in collaboration with an NGO for 50 children. The team first served the children and then ate with them.
- Two of our team members went on a familiarisation trip to Agra, Dholpur, Gwalior and Orchha this month
- Kumbh Mela special programme from Jan-Apr 2010. For details get in touch with us contact@indian-routes.in