



Dear Industry Colleagues,

Namaste from Peirce & Leslie in India!

I am sure that you share my belief that slow, immersive travel filled with rich and varied experiences, can be profoundly transformative on a personal level. At Peirce & Leslie, this is our endeavour – enabling deeper connections with cultures, communities, and the environment.

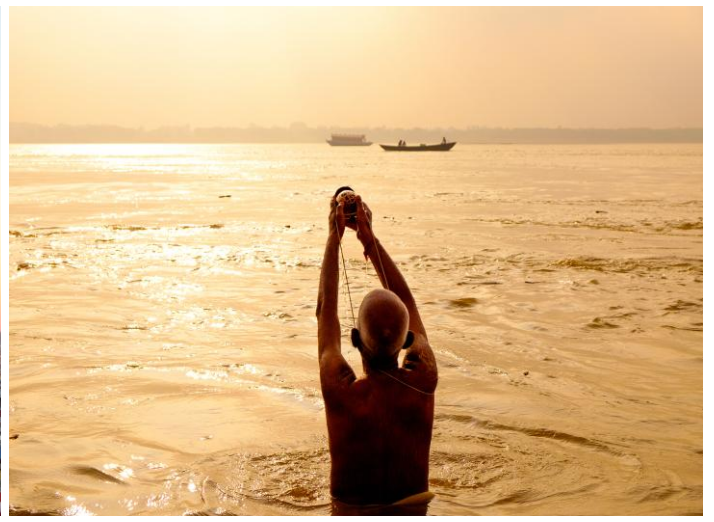
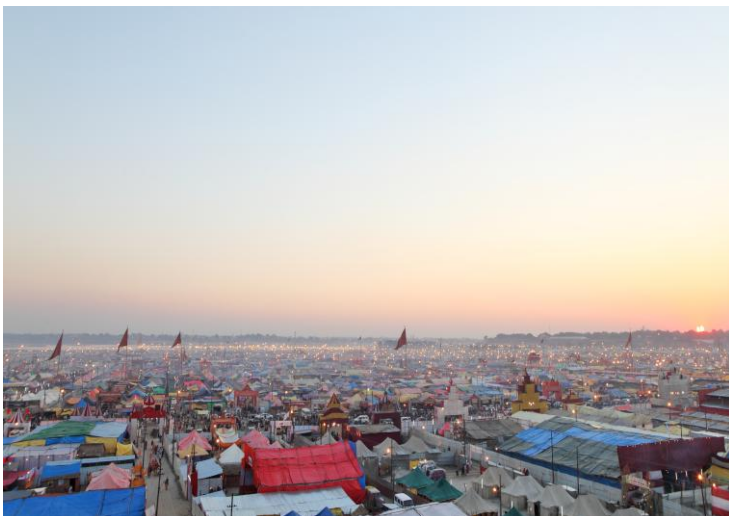
This month, I would like to share with you the myriad hues of the Indian subcontinent – cities that are filled with colour and wonderfully organized chaos and new, delightful culinary experiences which will make you rethink the notion of *Indian curry*.

There is much to see and feel and learn and, I encourage you to get your clients to experience India at a relaxed pace. They will feel the heartbeat of the cities, celebrate festivals with traditions that are centuries old and of course, feel like royalty at the stunning properties in the subcontinent. Through authentic, local experiences, we want to acquaint them with the real India and help them create wonderful memories.

Cheers,

Anil Pathak

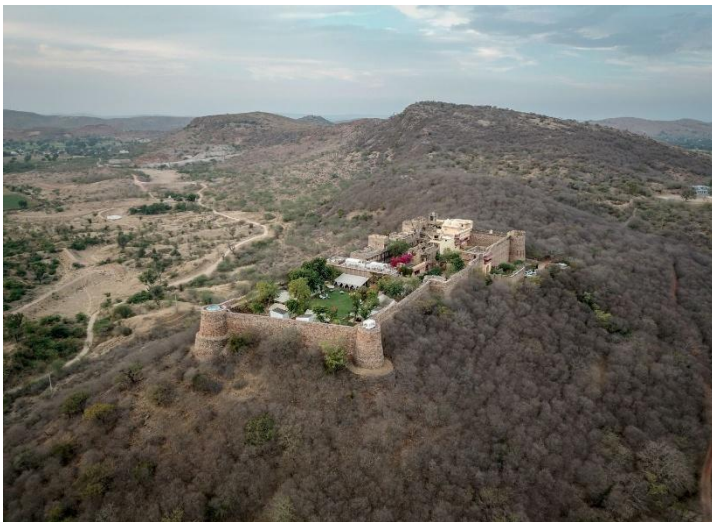




### **Maha Kumbh Mela, Prayagraj (January 14<sup>th</sup> – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025)**

Among the world's largest spiritual gatherings, the Maha Kumbh, will be held in 2025, drawing millions of pilgrims to the confluence of the rivers Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythological river, Saraswati. The place where the rivers converge, locally called the *Sangam*, has great religious significance. It is believed that to bathe here washes away one's sins and grants spiritual liberation. All year round, devotees visit the Sangam at Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad), and during the Kumbh Mela, this sacred ritual reaches an unparalleled scale. Held every 12 years, the Kumbh Mela transforms the city into a bustling pilgrimage centre.

**P&L recommends:** The main rite performed at the Kumbh Mela is the ritual bath. Ritual baths take place every day, however, the most important days are known as *Shahi Snan*, or 'Royal Baths'. This will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> and February 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.



### **Off-the-beaten Track at Ramathra Fort, Sapotra (Rajasthan)**

Perched on a gently sloping hill Ramathra Fort in Rajasthan, offers sweeping, serene views of the surrounding countryside, and a large perennial lake. Over 350 years old, it has been meticulously restored by artisans using locally sourced materials, preserving its traditional style and cultural integrity. The property, located in the heart of rural Rajasthan, offers guests an immersive royal experience at an authentically restored historical site. Accommodation is in four well-appointed rooms, two generously sized suites and six luxurious Rajasthani-style tents pitched on the courtyard lawn. A stay at Ramathra combines the charm of this historic hill fort with unforgettable excursions, nature walks, cooking demonstrations and safaris to the adjoining Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary and Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. When guests are not exploring the countryside, the fort is a wonderful place to relax with comfortable day beds, a double spa treatment room for massages and a heated jacuzzi in one of the turrets of the fort.

**What we love about the heritage fort palace:** The stunning views, warm hospitality, and rural excursions at Ramathra Fort – all of which are extremely rewarding.





### The Great Exotic Flower Tour

Flowers and floral motifs are a commonly occurring theme in Jaipur. You will see them gracing the architecture in the city, its block printing techniques, and in its richly woven fabrics – a celebration of nature at every turn. One of the fun activities that you can do in the city is to participate in a flower themed tour. During this tour, you will visit a bustling flower market, enjoy the delectable *laddoo* infused with edible flowers (a very popular local sweet), witness flowers being offered as sacred offerings at temples, visit a sustainable design studio to see the printing techniques used on textiles and finally, end your tour with a flower infused beauty treatment.



### Flavors of India: Railway Lamb Curry

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the British East India Company set up shop in India and over time, introduced a cuisine that fused Indian spices with the British meaty stews and roasts. This new contemporary cuisine was neither too bland nor too spicy but had a distinct flavor of its own. A gem of this Anglo-Indian cuisine is, Railway Lamb Curry. It was originally prepared for individuals who travelled in the Indian Railways' First-Class carriage during British rule in India. The original recipe called for goat, but we have substituted it for lamb. For those of you who don't eat red meat, the recipe works well with chicken. If you like, you can try your hand at the recipe [here](#).



### Meet one of our Guides

We'd like to introduce you to our very well-informed (and immensely popular) escort, **Shaitan Singh Rathore**. He has been in the business for over a decade and traces his lineage to the Rathore dynasty, a 15<sup>th</sup> century warrior clan from a small village in Rajasthan. Literally translated, his name means "devil", but his personality and demeanour are about as far removed from his name as you can get! Soft-spoken, witty and humorous, Shaitan is well respected by friends and co-workers. He is deeply passionate about his community in his ancestral village and works tirelessly to support and uplift them, particularly the cause of women. He is happiest anecdotes about his community and village with his guests. Ever since he can remember, Shaitan has always been very fond of horses. In his spare time, he assists his uncle in running a Marwar stud farm. Shaitan has been featured on Overseas Adventure Travel's list of 'Top 50 Trip Leaders in the World' and he now looks forward to bringing your Indian to life!



### In the news...

- The latest addition to the Indian Hotels Company's (IHCL) collection of hotels is **Yarkay, Thimphu – IHCL SeleQtions in Bhutan** (82 rooms and 1 suite).
- CGH Earth, one of India's finest collection of environmentally-sensitive hotels, recently added **Mansao Curtorim in Goa** to their portfolio. Nestled among rolling hills and lush greenery, the single storey mansion features 6 refurbished rooms that is perfect for families and small groups.
- **The Postcard Hotel**, a leading boutique hotel brand has recently started accepting reservations for its newest property in **Durrung Tea Estate (Assam)**. Set amidst lush tea plantations, the property offers twelve luxurious rooms.
- **DrukAir (Bhutan's national airline)** has started flights to Dubai twice a week to increase connectivity and provide accessibility to international guests from USA and Europe.

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