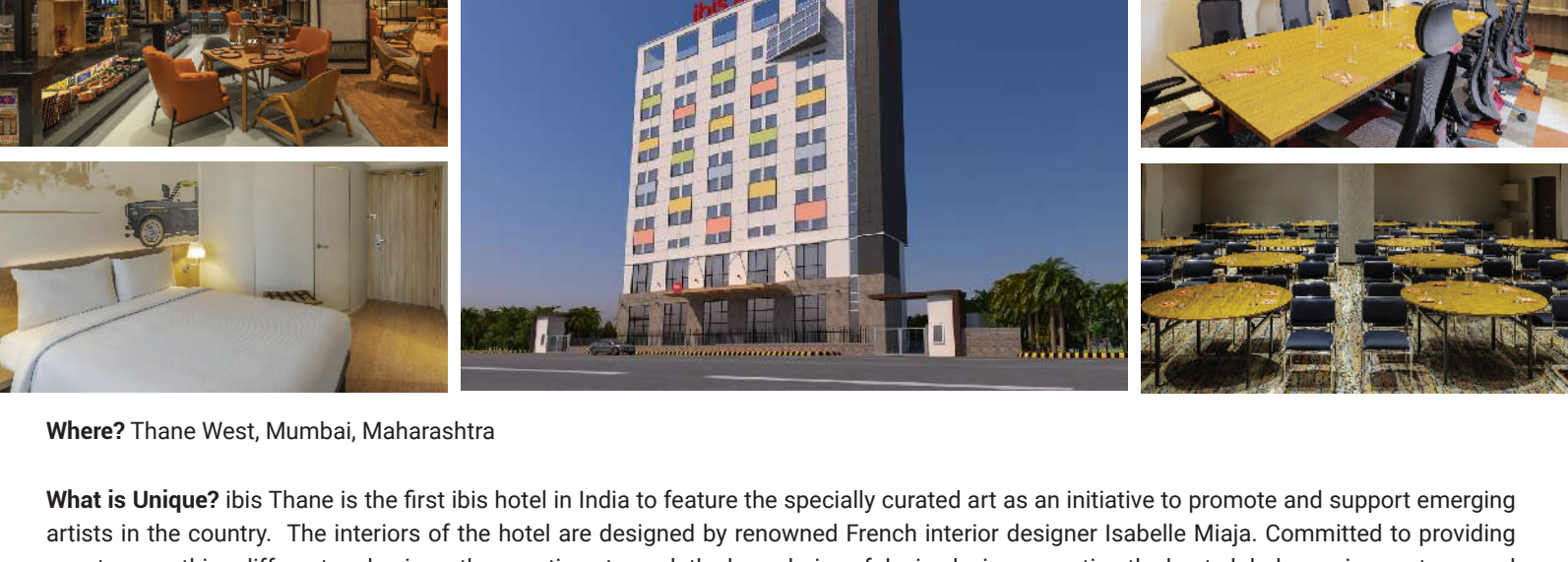


## NEW HOTEL OPENINGS

### ibis Thane



**Where?** Thane West, Mumbai, Maharashtra

**What is Unique?** ibis Thane is the first ibis hotel in India to feature the specially curated art as an initiative to promote and support emerging artists in the country. The interiors of the hotel are designed by renowned French interior designer Isabelle Miaja. Committed to providing guests something different and unique, they continue to push the boundaries of design by incorporating the best global experiences to appeal to today's design-savvy, discerning youth. Fully equipped smart meeting or conference rooms offering audio visual facilities, high speed Wi-Fi and complimentary parking, private venue, co-working and board room options make this perfect for business and work meets. Indulge in great food at Spice it, the multi-cuisine restaurant offering an interactive live kitchen counter and delectable local flavours served round the clock following some of the most stringent cleaning standards and operational protocols.

**Why?** Offering a view of the Thane skyline, the rooms have been designed to ensure comfort, featuring a couch that can be used as a third bed, a lounge chair or a mini-workstation, also including a safety deposit box, tea and coffee amenities, a minibar and a smart pod bathroom. Equipped with 186 well-designed rooms across eight floors, the hotel is centrally located, near key business districts such as Hiranandani, Ghodbunder Road, Wagle Estate, Kolshet and Airoli, making it the ideal location for business and leisure travellers alike. Enjoy varied range of beverages at the Spice it Bar library bar accompanied with delicious bar bites or just unwind at the alfresco to get into the groove.

### Fortune Resort Kalimpong



**Where?** Kalimpong, West Bengal

**What is Unique?** Whether you're seeking thrilling adventures or a slice of life in nature's lap, treat yourself to a delightful stay at Fortune Resort Kalimpong and revel in the glory of rich mountain culture and its delectable fine cuisine. Sun-kissed and caressed by the cool alpine breeze this sprawling resort with an unmatched view of the Mt. Kanchenzonga and the green forested valley, is a perfect blend of harmony away from the hustle and bustle of the city life and the maddening crowds. Dressed in warm shades of life, this modish resort with its spacious and contemporary rooms & suites, perceptive and impeccable services promises to delight you with the Fortune experience. Do not forget to indulge in wholesome breakfast at Zodiac, the all-day diner, as you or choose from an extensive a-la-carte menu featuring the best of Indian, Chinese, and Continental cuisine while soaking in the breath-taking postcard views of the valley. In the evening, relax with your family & friends in a contemporary styled in-house bar, Neptune, that exhibits an excellent selection of spirits, wines, cocktails, mocktails and beers along with hand crafted snacks and finger foods.

**Why?** Approximately 2hrs drive from the Bagdogra Airport and New Jalpaiguri Railway Station, Fortune Resort Kalimpong is the best choice for intimate weddings and extended family vacays. The resort with its 44 well-appointed rooms and suites bring the outdoors in. Together with a modern banquet hall and a lush green lawn space, the picturesque resort is well-equipped to accommodate 150 to 600 guests for all kinds of events. Add to it their state-of-the-art facilities, a dedicated team, lip-smacking gourmet options, and tailor-made services, your event is sure to be a success. If its wellness on your mind, take a dip in the serene infinity-styled outdoor pool overlooking the mountain ranges or just renew your senses and rejoice with an array of signature massages and beauty therapies extended by trained therapists in the restful spa.

### Brij Bageecha Kukas – Jaipur



**Where?** Kukas, Jaipur, Rajasthan

**What is Unique?** Just about four hours from the National capital, Brij Bageecha Kukas, Jaipur provides an immersive stay experience that is nothing short of exceptional. Unwind and rejuvenate with gentle yoga sessions at Aangan - the courtyard. Experience the principles and practices of sustainable agriculture first-hand by learning how to plant, harvest, and cultivate a variety of crops at their onsite organic farms. Indulge in the freshest farm-to-table dining experience with their organic garden cooking class where you co-create a delicious meal with experienced chefs by picking your own fresh produce from property's bountiful garden. Immerse yourself in the vibrant and colourful culture with their Rajasthani Folk Musical evening featuring the mesmerizing Kalandia dance. The candlelit tables, adorned with fresh flowers and elegant place settings amidst the trees in the beautiful orchard, creates a cosy and inviting atmosphere perfect for a special occasion or a romantic date night.

**Why?** From Wildlife to art, Jaipur has got it all! Visit or indulge in experiences like brick making, blue pottery making, handmade carpet making or get your customized pair of moccasins. Witness some of the world's most fascinating wildlife up close in Jhalana Safari Park. Pedal your way through winding roads and adventurous trails, taking in the unexplored beauty of rural Rajasthan. Meet friendly locals in the quaint villages. Experience the ambience of a rustic village setting and the joy of connecting with locals by understanding their way of life, while enjoying an unforgettable evening of food, music, and cultural interaction in a traditional village dining experience.

### Sterling Mantra, Haridwar



**Where?** Haridwar, Uttarakhand

**What is Unique?** Sterling Mantra Haridwar Hotel is a luxurious oasis that exudes opulence and elegance. What sets this hotel apart is its unique blend of traditional and contemporary decor that will transport you to a world of luxury and comfort. The hotel features 82 well-appointed rooms that are designed to provide a comfortable and memorable stay for its guests. Its stunning interiors are inspired by the rich culture and heritage of Haridwar, and the decor reflects a perfect blend of traditional and modern styles. The hotel's serene ambience and tranquil setting offer a perfect escape from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

**Why?** There are several reasons why you should choose Sterling Mantra Haridwar Hotel for your next stay. The hotel offers a range of amenities that cater to your every need, including a rooftop pool, a fitness center, and a spa, ensuring that you have a relaxing and rejuvenating stay. Its in-house restaurant serves delectable local and international cuisine, providing guests with a delightful culinary experience. The hotel's prime location in the heart of Haridwar makes it easily accessible from the city's major attractions and pilgrimage sites, including the famous Har Ki Pauri Ghat. The courteous and friendly staff at Sterling Mantra Haridwar Hotel provide impeccable service, making your stay an unforgettable experience. Indulge in a lavish retreat at Sterling Mantra Haridwar Hotel and experience the perfect blend of luxury and comfort in the heart of Haridwar.

### Jaagir Manor, Dudhwa – IHCL SeleQtions

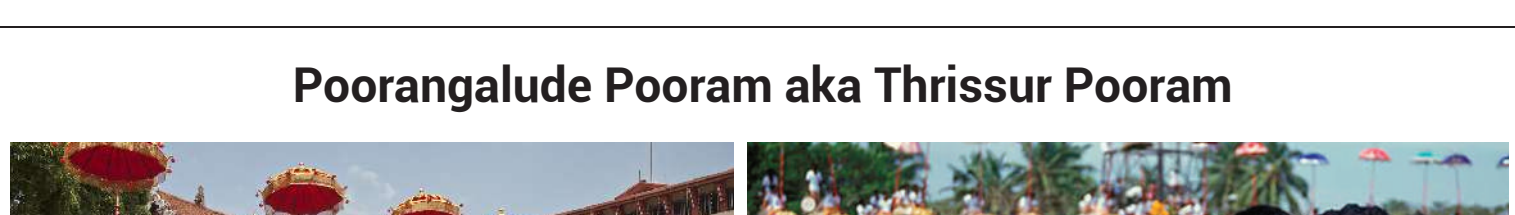


**Where?** Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh

**What is Unique?** Take a refreshing dip in the sparkling swimming pool or enjoy an evening stroll on the property's lush green lawn. Walk into the intimate Lounge which gives the impression that you are walking into an exquisite life-size Victorian painting. With its own private bar, a quaint fireplace mantle and cozy armchairs, it is an enchanting setting for sharing stories about one's jaunts in the wild. Wildlife expeditions take place in Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Pilibhit Tiger Reserve on hotels' private vehicles, elephant back and boats.

**Why?** With design inspired by Victorian elegance, the hotel is a serene oasis in the heart of the rainforests of the Terai Himalayas bordering Nepal. Featuring a combination of heritage rooms dating back to the 1940's and luxury villas, the 20-room hotel is nestled within tranquil orchards and surrounding forests at a comfortable driving distance from Lucknow. In addition to offering a chance to see the Indian Big Five: Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, Sloth Bears and Rhinos, the region offers four distinct landscapes including wet marshes, grasslands, dense forests and vast alluvial plains. Enjoy the peace and calmness of hotels' colonial safari-themed oases of comfort in hundreds of acres of tranquil orchards and miles of rugged forests which are home to several species of mammals and birds.

## Poorangalude Pooram aka Thrissur Pooram



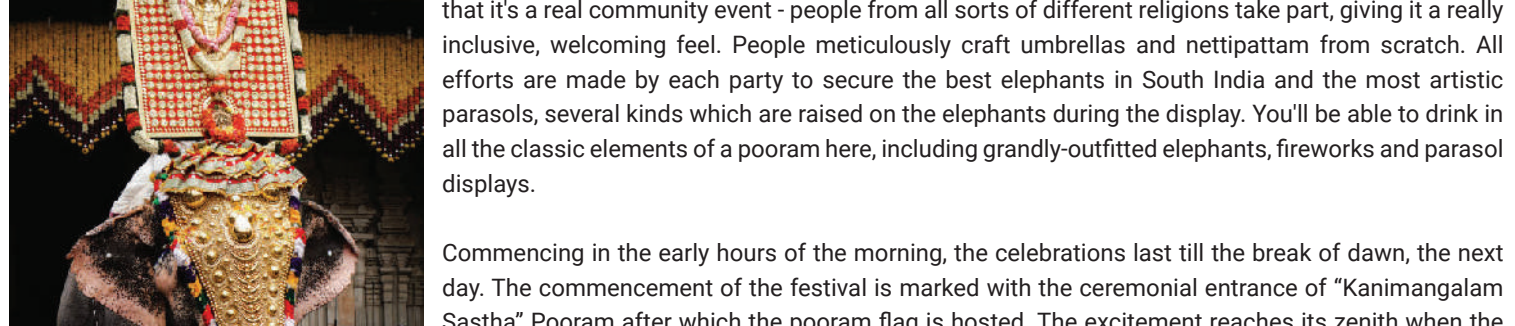
Two rows of caparisoned elephants facing each other separated by a sea of humanity is the image that comes to the mind when Thrissur Pooram is mentioned. Even though Kerala celebrates many Poorams from November to May, the grandest of them all though is Thrissur Pooram. Vibrant, atmospheric events, Poorams give you a chance to utterly immerse yourself in local culture. At Thrissur Pooram, you should expect a spectacular mix of elephant parades, music and dance. In fact, two groups pit themselves against each other to deliver the most lavish decorations and best musical performances - something that means you can expect a real show!



Each year, it's staged in either April or May (in the Malayalam month of Medom). Although this grand festival is known as Thrissur Pooram, it is in fact the conclusion of the eight -day Utsavam of nine temples. Thrissur Pooram 2023 date is April 30. What's particularly nice about Thrissur Pooram is that it's a real community event - people from all sorts of different religions take part, giving it a really inclusive, welcoming feel. People meticulously craft umbrellas and nettippattam from scratch. All efforts are made by each party to secure the best elephants in South India and the most artistic parasols, several kinds which are raised on the elephants during the display. You'll be able to drink in all the classic elements of a pooram here, including grandly-outfitted elephants, fireworks and parasol displays.

Commencing in the early hours of the morning, the celebrations last till the break of dawn, the next day. The commencement of the festival is marked with the ceremonial tilling of "Kanimangalam Saastha" Pooram after which the pooram flag is hosted. The excitement reaches its zenith when the processions of the Thiruvambadi Sri Krishna and Paramakkavu Devi temples face each other at the Thekke Gopura Nada area. [Read More...](#)

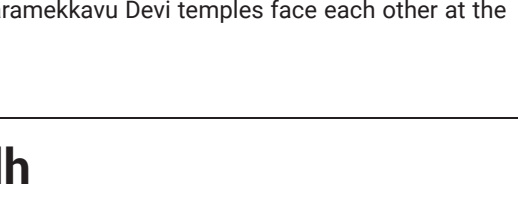
## Aalia Jungle Bandarjudh



Nestled amidst the breathtakingly beautiful Mohand forest range of Rajaji National Park in Bandarjudh, Aalia Jungle Resort is a hidden gem that offers a unique glamping experience that will leave you spellbound. The resort, which is a part of the prestigious Claridges Collection, Mussoorie, is a perfect blend of colonial charm, contemporary style, and simplicity. The resort offers 11 spacious tent accommodations, each with a private deck and large netted windows that allow you to bask in the glory of nature without any hindrance. The tents are equipped with all the modern amenities that one could ask for, including a writing desk with in-house stationeries, ensuite bathrooms with a shower area, running hot and cold water 24x7, hair dryer, and shaver socket. To add to the luxury, the bathrooms are adorned with specially designed Ayurvedic toiletries that are sure to rejuvenate your senses.

At Aalia Jungle Resort, the dining experience is nothing short of extraordinary. The in-house restaurant offers a multi-cuisine menu that will tantalize your taste buds and leave you craving for more. The resort prides itself on serving only the freshest ingredients that are grown at their own farms at the property.

But that's not all! Aalia Jungle Resort offers a host of activities that will keep you entertained and engaged throughout your stay. From archery to safari, forest cycling to horse riding, and trekking to rejuvenating spa therapy, there is something for everyone. You can also take a dip in the salubrious pool or simply unwind amidst the lush greenery that surrounds the resort. The highlight of your stay at Aalia Jungle Resort is the customized safari at Rajaji National Park. Here, you can observe some of the magnificent cats found in the country, which will undoubtedly be an experience of a lifetime. [Read More...](#)



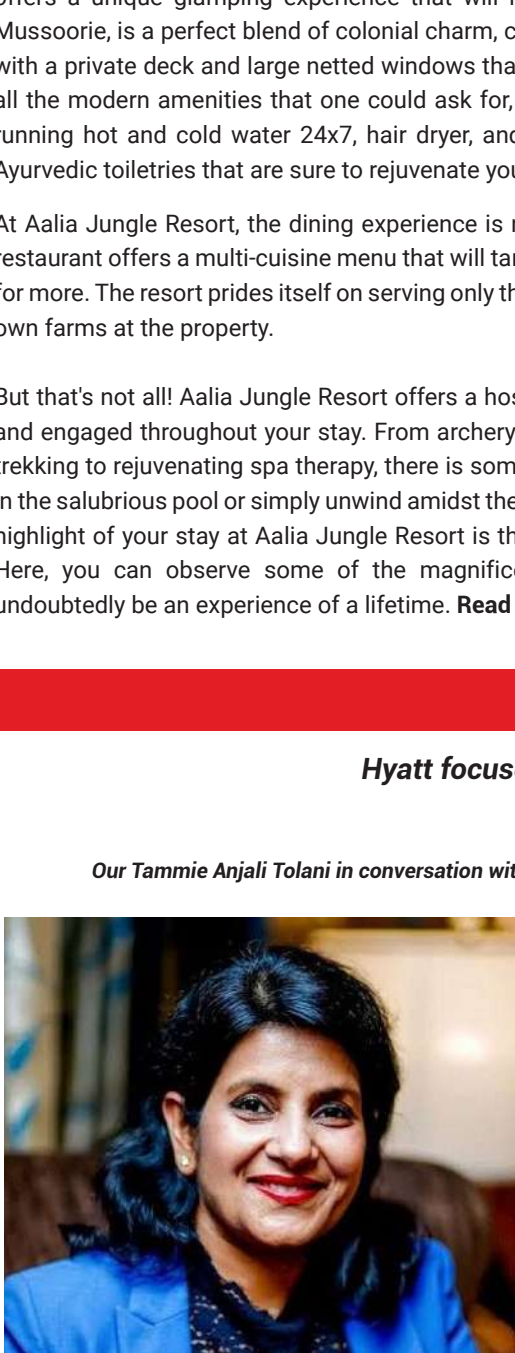
## LEADER SPEAK

### Hyatt focuses its lens on India and immersive travel offerings!

**By Kadambini Mittal**

*Regional VP - Commercial, India & Southwest Asia*

*Our Tammie Anjali Tolani in conversation with Kadambini Mittal of Hyatt to understand what areas Hyatt plans to focus on, in the current year.*



**Hyatt in India has largely been known for its business hotels in the past barring a few exceptions like in Goa etc. However, in the past 3-4 years there has been a thrust on opening hotels in leisure destinations. What has changed?**

The pandemic has had a profound impact on travelers' attitudes and preferences. There is a growing demand for wellness-focused and immersive travel experiences, resulting in a significant increase in domestic and international leisure travel. The future of travel is likely to prioritize a combination of sustainability, immersion, and personalization, as travelers seek to have meaningful and authentic experiences while minimizing their impact on the planet. Inbound travel has shown an upswing in demand as well. Therefore, we are expanding our presence in locations where guests are eager to travel, which is in line with the recent openings of our properties in Dehradun, Bharuch, Jaipur, and Trivandrum. In fact, 2022 marked a historic milestone for Hyatt as we opened nine new properties in India in a year - a global first. This underscores our strong commitment to the country's growth and development, and we are excited to continue this momentum in 2023 with more hotel openings, including the debut of JdV by Hyatt, our globally acclaimed lifestyle brand.

**Having moved its focus away from Travel Trade, what segment is the group focusing on to fill in the deficit that the move might entail?**

The leisure travel segment has been the primary growth driver for our recovery, with the company having seen a nearly 175% growth in its leisure group business from January to March this year as compared to quarter one of 2019. This trend is expected to continue in the coming years, as the human desire to reconnect with loved ones and explore new destinations has never been stronger, as evidenced by the rising demand for staycations, workations, and weekend getaways. Now more than ever, people are venturing out to travel for leisure. They are eager to discover new things, relax, and reconnect with each other. To meet the needs of our guests, we have hotel openings lined up across the country in leisure, as well as business destinations. Our goal is to have a more diverse portfolio of hotel offerings in both existing and emerging markets. In addition to this, we have been on top of our game to innovate and reimagine the hospitality experience for our guests through specially curated initiatives such as Hyatt Dining Club, Perfectly Yours, and local experiences under FIND. [Read More...](#)



Allia Fort Bishangarh



Andaz Delhi

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