



TIGERPAW ADVENTURES PANDEMIC PONDERINGS

Pic below: Elephants having got drunk on corn wine, sleep it off on a tea plantation.



A reprieve for the natural kingdom

Staying In Touch

Dear Friends and Patrons,

This is no ordinary newsletter. It is also rather more personal than other newsletters, for much has changed. As a 'citizen of the world' and one who has always been innately connected with people and places far away, with a propensity to bond easily, the curtailments being experienced now now give pause for thought.

Forty years in the travel business is a very long time indeed. Centered out of India, I have certainly experienced my fair share of life altering events be these, Kashmir, Punjab, regional floods, bubonic plague (yes), national strikes marked by violence, fuel shortages and citizens protests and such.

Over all those years TigerPaws evolved a strategy and pursued a path of travelling to multiple destinations in multiple continents, even while the Indian sub continent has been its key theatre.





Kangchenjunga (Sikkim, India) - World's third highest peak

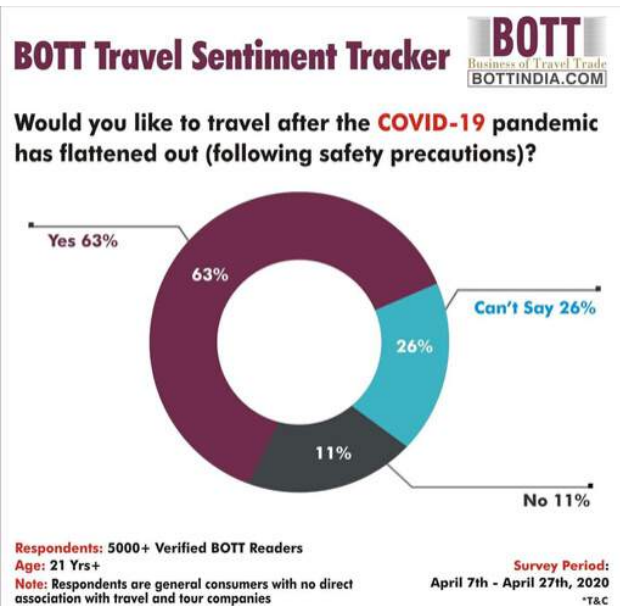
Nothing however prepared us for the shock of Covid 19, the severe lockdown coming as it did on a few hours notice, something that gradually spilled to cover our entire globe and has begun pointing to new norms.

Having only recently covered three international trade shows in Atlanta, Philippines and Borneo between January and February 2020, and preparing for the last in March in Ras Al Khyama, all of which were leading up to an excellent 2020 fall season, we, like the rest of the world have seen the short term outcome of all of these change from excellent to questionable.

But, even while all of us are in the midst of a severe crunch, not having access to the support that western nations are able to extend to industry, and while we have gone into lean mean mode, this pandemic gives pause for reflection, reorientation, reassessment and renewed commitments.

During this period, I have also been participating in some high profile international webinars and it is amazing to see the knowledge, adaptation, new expectations emerging from around the world in the travel and ancillary industries. This extends tremendous hope to us all as tourism is one of the largest industries globally.

As such, and looking at historical events such as the 1918 pandemic, I do believe that while it may take a while, things will return to a very acceptable normality by 2022 even while by 2021 January, there will be an adequate sense of normality albeit new.





continued...

It is chilling to read about the devastation of the 1918 pandemic where in something like four days 900,000 deaths took place in South Africa alone.

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SHOWS CLOSED EPIDEMIC PUTS BAN ON ALL PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

MR. LOVERINGS COMMENT
The epidemic is spreading rapidly in Seattle and it is necessary to close all public assemblies to prevent further spread.

SEATTLE TO MAKE FIGHT ON DISEASE
Mayor and City Health Officer will discuss ways to close public places in order to stop the spread of the epidemic.

POLICE ORDERED TO CLOSE PUBLIC PLACES
The police are ordered to close all public places, including churches, schools, and theaters, to prevent the spread of the epidemic.



AMERICANS AND FRENCH SMASH FOE

U.S. TROOPS SMASH HUNS IN ARGONNE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

INFLUENZA

Spread by Droplets sprayed from Nose and Throat

- Cover each COUGH and SNEEZE with handkerchief.
- Spread by contact.
- AVOID CROWDS.**
- If possible, **WALK TO WORK.**
- Do not spit on floor or sidewalk.
- Do not use common drinking cups and common towels.
- Avoid excessive fatigue.
- If taken ill, go to bed and send for a doctor.

The above applies also to colds, bronchitis, pneumonia, and tuberculosis.

PNEUMONIA

IS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME THROUGHOUT AMERICA.
THIS THEATRE IS CO-OPERATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
YOU MUST DO THE SAME
IF YOU HAVE A COLD AND ARE COUGHING AND SNEEZING- DO NOT ENTER THIS THEATRE
GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL

Coughing, Sneezing or Spitting Will Not Be Permitted In The Theatre. In case you must cough or Sneeze, do so in your own handkerchief, and if the Coughing or Sneezing Persists Leave The Theatre At Once.

This Theatre has agreed to co-operate with the Department Of Health in disseminating the truth about Influenza, and thus serve a great educational purpose.



[Click here to read more about the 1918 pandemic](#)



Families were shattered globally and it took a generation for many to recover.



THE HUMAN SPIRIT IS US!

Travel to us, is sharing an experience, and winning a friend. One of the aspects of human behaviour to emerge is a greater kindness in general. Even while we see the corollary, there are undoubtedly laudable examples of the former. Here are some random items from various quarters.

In this newsletter, we take examples from around the world, and India to show case the positive side of human behavior and endeavor, along with the tragic sacrifices of those on the frontline. The underlying message always being "Hope Springs Eternal".



Captain Tom Moore, the 99 year old war veteran who walked laps of his garden to raise money for the NHS, has become the oldest person ever to score a number one single in the UK. By his effort, he raised over 30 million sterling pounds for the National Health Service.

CAPT TOM'S WORDS ARE WORTH REMEMBERING IN THESE TIMES, FOR HE HAS SEEN THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND THE BEST AND WORST OF TIMES.

News from United Kingdom...



From a friend, Navjot Singh Bhangoo, on the front line London (*pic left*) referring to his fallen comrade (*pic centre*) "Just a year ago, Manjit grabbed me for an impromptu photo. "This isn't going to happen again", he said. He was unfortunately right.

He was alluding to the fact that the consultants on call for Orthopaedics (me), A+E (him) and medicine (Kam) were all Khalsas! He was a gem, a finer Sikh than me by far. A wonderful tabla player and great doctor. We must take strength in his actions as Guru Gobind Singh ji said, "God, grant me this boon that I may not hesitate from performing good actions, I may not fear the enemy, when I go to fight and assuredly I be victorious and when my mortal life is to come to an end, may I die fighting courageously in the battlefield " Chardi kala always — Navjot Singh Bhangoo.



What is different this time?

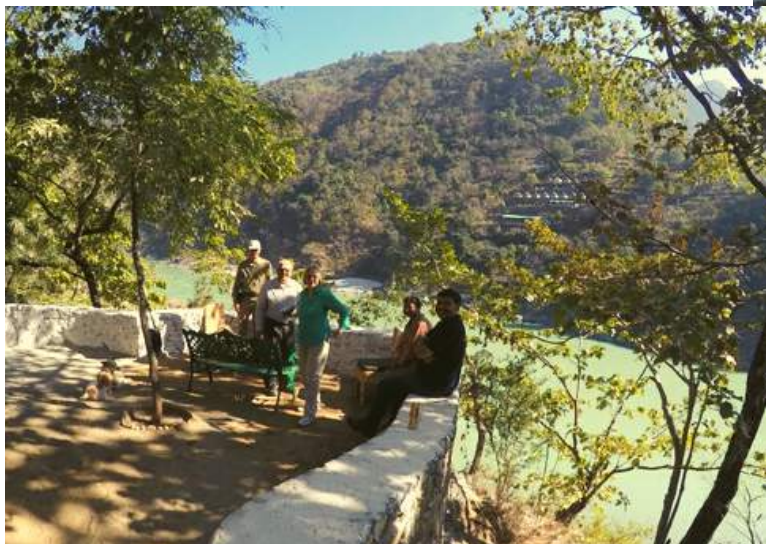
It is that much more scientific knowledge is available, available faster. Also there are hundreds of opportunities arising, something which was not available in 1918. Products, consumption, entertainment were highly limited in the previous century. Even so, there are many questions to which there are no easy answers. For example, handling of manufactured equipment, handling of government files (India still follows the paper file culture to a significant degree) social distancing on aircraft and so on.

One positive outcome is the tremendous resurgence of nature everywhere. Whether this be a cleaner Ganges, or Yamuna, mammals reclaiming natural spaces or cleaner air, these are for nature lovers especially, a great boon and certainly, something we can experience anew for the next couple of years at least! *(For more details, kindly email us at: spashram@gmail.com)*

Alongside, and with the shortage of nursing staff worldwide, a basic program for imparting nursing training is being planned under our "Angels of Mercy" program and this may see, in the future some of these making their way to overseas territories where a shortage exists.



Remembering the late Jessica Houdret



At Spashram, along with health, food security is slated to play an even bigger role and our wholistic approach expands on organic farming.



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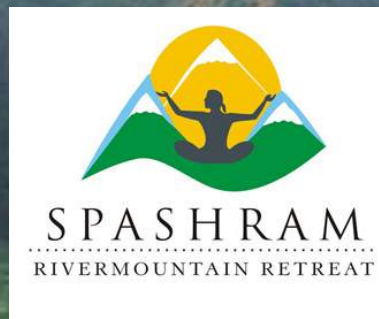
We have now been able to polish our plans at the Spashram RiverMountain Retreat to cater to a new set of requirements whether these be health and safety protocols, or indeed aims and take away benefits for visitors. *(Details are available on request)*

This also, on account of our strong medical expert network enable us to facilitate and plan international travel and advice even while this is a constantly emerging subject. Our ability to advise, recommend and facilitate is , we believe very good. These aspects e.g. our access to medical support and networks, recently assisted us greatly when Champlain College, Vermont, USA, came for their third trip with us, just before the pandemic was announced. Gary Scudder the leader, engaged with us and his faculty and took a decision to come on the 4th of March.

TigerPaws had all the health and safety protocols in place during the course of the journey through Rajasthan and Agra and thankfully the group was able to leave hale and hearty on the 15th March 2020.

For future travellers, these resources and qualities will be available, updated and current and this I am sure will be reassuring to know. These include safety equipment and sanitization available in private transport, accommodation and such as well as medical support as needed.





NEW HEALTH FEATURES AT SPASHRAM

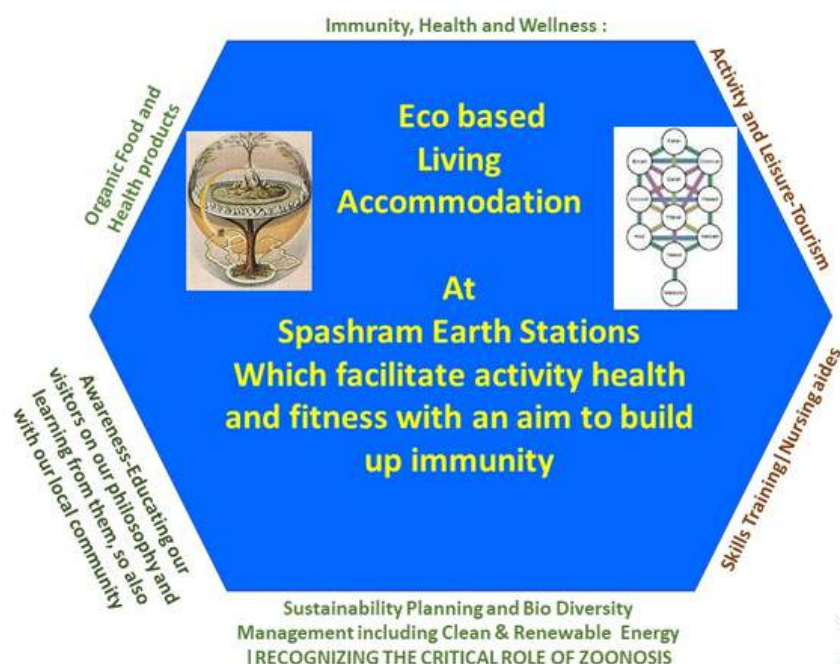
- Path Lab to be incorporated
- Nursing training (basic) to be initiated
- One room fitted with ventilator, hospital bed, basic diagnostic equipment
- On-site doctor
- Tele and Medi network of medical experts



Organic home produce based diet for immunity



HEALTH CORE IMPACTED BY OUR ENVIRONMENT.
OUR ENVIRONMENT IMPACTED BY OUR ACTIONS



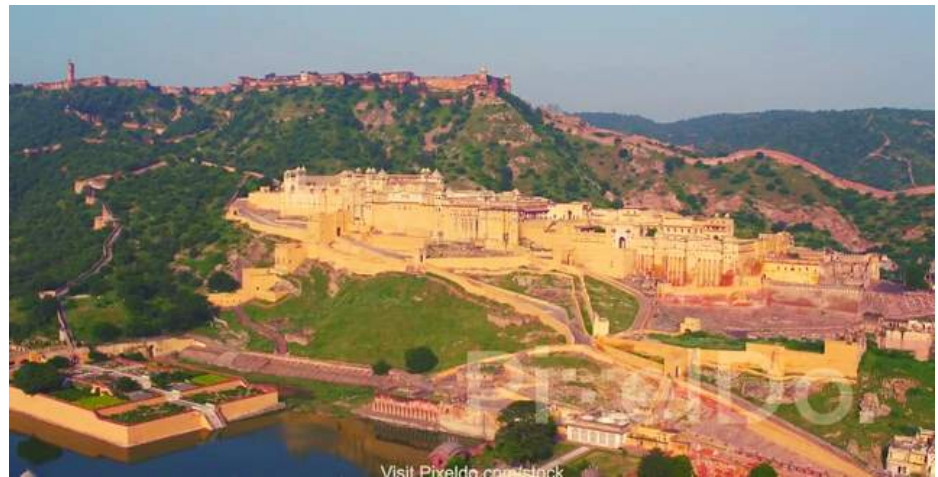


INDIA: A MONUMENTAL SILENCE WAITING TO BREAK



The Jama Masjid,
Delhi

The Amber Palace,
Jaipur



The Lake Palace City,
Udaipur



INDIA'S DENIZENS OF THE FOREST ON A WALK THROUGH OF THE ZOO



A small Indian civet on road in Kozhikode during lockdown

Susanta Nanda IFS
@susantananda3

When the elephant knocked at the door to check for the humans staying indoors since lockdown 😊
From Eravikulam National Park, Idduki district of Kerala.



2,389 10:07 PM - Apr 19, 2020



Southern India
where many a spot
was overrun





SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF POSITIVE NEWS

‘Flights are safest mode of travel’

Saurabh.Sinha
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: When flights resume and you take to the skies again, do not panic



when someone on the rows ahead or behind you sneezes or coughs. There is minimal risk of Covid-19 — assuming the person sneezing or coughing is an undiagnosed infected and is wearing a mask—finding its way to you by transmission through air inside the cabin, according to European aerospace major Airbus. The aircraft manufacturer says its cabin airflow and filtration systems virtually rule out airborne transmission of contaminants like Covid-19 on flights.

To be sure while airborne transmission has been ruled out, Airbus reiterates everyone onboard must follow heightened norms of hygiene like disinfecting hands and wearing masks, decontamination of surfaces and

controlled boarding to ensure that the virus does not spread through surfaces of common touchpoints like lavatory doorknobs. The mandate for facial covering should keep you safe even if the person next to you sneezes or coughs.

“The air inside an aircraft is extremely clean due to three reasons and air travel therefore remains the safest mode of transport. There is no airflow between front and back or left and right,” Anand Stanley, Airbus (India and South Asia) president and MD, told TOI.

“First, airflow in an aircraft happens only from top to bottom and air is sucked out at the bottom of the floor which does not happen on any mode of surface transport. Second, air is recycled every 2 to 3 minutes and finally the air passes through hepa filters that can keep even PM 2.5 particles out. Corona-virus is relatively bigger in size,” he explained. “These three factors make air inside the cabin clean and safe.”

Full report on www.toi.in

HELPING HANDS

➤ A Mumbai woman appealed on Twitter for camel milk from Rajasthan for her **three-and-a-half-year-old autistic child**

➤ Odisha-based IPS officer Arun Bothra helped procure milk powder & camel milk from a vendor in Rajasthan

➤ A freight train made a **special stop at Falna station** to load the parcel

Railways delivers camel milk from Rajasthan to Mumbai for autistic child after his mother tweets to PM Modi. [Read more](#)



Family of leukemia patient from Manipur rush to Delhi by road for emergency transplant. [Read more](#)





More positive news...

LIFE IN QUARANTINE

A nurse and her son's long wait to return home

**Shiv Sunny and
Karn Pratap Singh**

■ htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Among the few words her two-year-old can utter are 'mumma' and 'papa'.

Huddled close on a hospital bed, the mother springs up and makes a video call to her husband whenever her child says 'papa'.

"My boy hasn't learnt how to speak yet, but he understands that the man on the mobile screen is his father," says the child's 29-year-old mother.

The woman and her son have both been quarantined at a city hospital for 19 days, ever since they tested positive for Covid-19. She works as a nurse at another hospital, where one of the doctors had tested positive for the virus on April 7.

At the quarantine centre, for a lot of time when they are awake, the mother holds her

mobile phone in front of her two-year-old so that he can watch cartoons. "He is a very active child. But he hasn't troubled me at all here despite facing issues with his food and milk," the woman said.

"Our hospital wasn't even treating or screening Covid patients, so I don't know how he (the doctor) got infected. But once he tested positive, all of us who were in contact with him had to undergo tests," said the woman, who doesn't want either the hospital she works, or where she is admitted to be identified. Soon after, she and some other health-care workers tested positive.

An official from the hospital administration says they still haven't been able to pinpoint how the doctor tested positive, despite not treating any Covid patients.

In any case, this nurse thought that she was safe as neither were there any cases at her hospital, nor had any-

one been tested. So, she didn't feel the need to keep her child away from her at home.

But soon, she and her son tested positive while her husband tested negative.

The two were allotted a hospital room, but the facility is nowhere close to what the nurse would have liked. "My child is used to getting milk around 11 am. I can survive till 2 pm with just a packet of biscuits, but I can't expect my child to," she says.

For the last two days, she says, there has been no milk. "I am using packed milk that my friends brought us and heating it up in an electric kettle that I had brought along," she said.

She fears that the kettle may not stop working. "Anytime the kettle makes a sound, I worry it will malfunction," she says. "The initial few days, the hospital staff wouldn't let anyone bring anything for us. I am a nurse

myself, but the hospital staff would look at me as if I committed a crime by getting infected. But thankfully they allowed the milk when we needed it," she says.

The mother and son sleep on the same bed. Unlike earlier, she says, she doesn't feel like watching films on her mobile phone. Family members keep calling her. "Though it worries me that my child is sick, he is the reason I am able to survive the quarantine," she said.

The nurse did have a little fever around the time she tested positive, but her son hasn't displayed any symptoms. "My only prayer is that he remains asymptomatic," she says.

She says she is getting to spend valuable time with her son, though she misses her husband. "I'll teach my child to speak a few more words by the time he gets to actually meet his father".

2,400km to help sister fight cancer

Anonna Dutt

■ anonna.dutt@tntive.com

NEW DELHI: Debeshwari Ch, 49, had to reach the National Capital Region (NCR) centred on Delhi from Imphal, the capital of Manipur, to donate bone marrow for transplant to her cancer-stricken sister. To do so, she travelled by car for four days, covering a distance of 2,409 km, accompanied by her daughter and brother-in-law, arriving in Delhi on April 22.

Her sister, Ch Ningolee, 55, had been brought to Fortis Memorial Research Institute in the last week of January for the treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia, a type of blood cancer in which excess production of immature white blood cells affects normal blood production. "She had high-risk cancer, where the mortality is 100% if a bone marrow transplant is not done. We had to get her to remission - less than 5% of the leukaemia cells surviving - before the transplant could be done. Her first two chemotherapies failed, but she responded

HER SISTER HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO A GURUGRAM HOSPITAL IN THE LAST WEEK OF JANUARY FOR ACUTE MYELOID LEUKAEMIA, A TYPE OF BLOOD CANCER

well to the third one. It was after the lockdown when we informed the family that she was in a condition to undergo a transplant," said Dr Rahul Bhargava of the Institute of Blood Disorders and Bone Marrow Transplant.

Debeshwari was informed on April 7 about the improvement in her sister's condition. The family decided to wait another week until the first phase of what turned out to be an extended lockdown was lifted on April 15.

"We had booked flights for April 15. However, by April 13 or so there was talk about the extension of the lockdown, so we approached the state government. We asked if she could hitch

a ride on the cargo planes, but permission was refused. That is when we tweeted and received a lot of support from a lot of people and government agencies," said Vilina L, Debeshwari's daughter.

Under the lockdown, only two people are allowed to travel in a car but the family received permission for five - two drivers and three family members - as they had to cover a long distance. The doctors gave Ningolee another round of chemotherapy to ensure she remained healthy during the wait for her sister's arrival.

"Because of the lockdown, there weren't any hotels or restaurants open on the way. We had to map the travel meticulously. The district authorities got in touch with the local police and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), who arranged for our stay in hotels and guest houses on the way. We were scared and anxious about travelling such a long distance, especially in the hilly terrains of the Northeast, but the authorities met us at every step of the way,

checking in on how we were doing," said Vilina.

Lunch was provided on the way by an NGO. After reaching Gurugram on April 22, Debeshwari underwent a Covid-19 test, which returned negative on Saturday. Monday on, she will receive injections to prepare her for the bone marrow donation. The injections force the blood-forming cells into the blood, which is then collected using a process called apheresis, in which a machine separates the components of the blood, collects the required cells, and pushes the rest back into the body.

She is an allogenic donor, meaning that she is a genetic match for her sister. "We had counselled the family about the risk of undergoing a transplant during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the risk of the disease was more than that of Covid-19 and the family decided to proceed with the treatment," said Dr Meet Kumar, consultant haematologist and bone marrow transplant physician at the hospital.



condt...



A photo taken in Melbourne on March 27, 2020 shows volunteers preparing food deliveries as Sikh temples across Melbourne have become one of the centres of support for both medical workers and those self isolating.

Sikh community in Australia works tirelessly to deliver free meals to needy people. [Read more](#)



Viral Videos of California Police Thanking Sikh Community by Circumambulating the Riverside Gurdwara with Blaring Sirens for Delivering Free Food and Masks Take Over Twitter. [Read more](#)



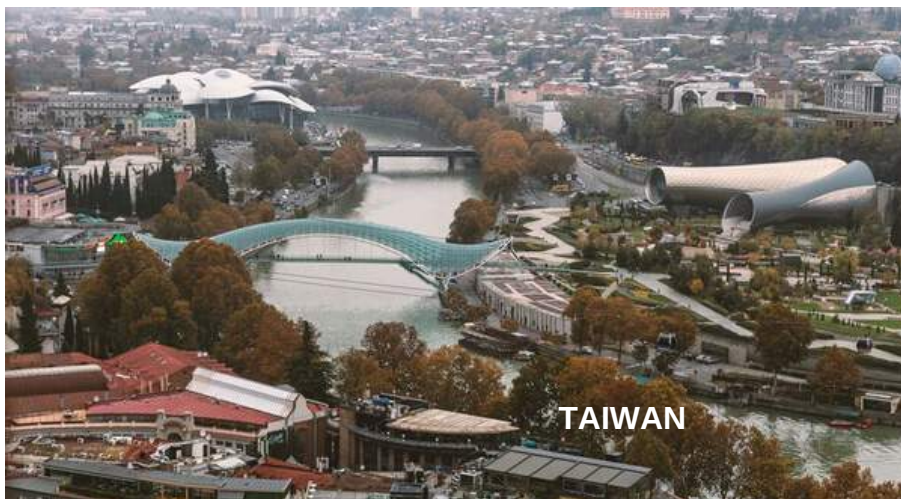


TRAVELLING PAST THE PANDEMIC

Nations that Conquered Covid

TigerPaws has been monitoring the opening of safe destinations and airlines that have begun serving them. While we only expect to receive overseas travellers in early 2021, we would like to give you some food for thought should you be inclined.

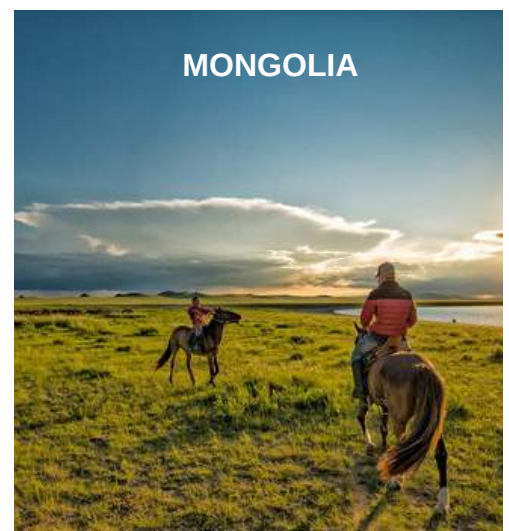
Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia, Taiwan, India, of course especially Kerala which has been an exemplar of surmounting the pandemic will be some of our proposed destinations.



Norms and protocols will of course have to be monitored carefully and we will keep sharing these with you. These include destination host establishments especially selected based on their adaptability and steps taken to cater to new health requirements.

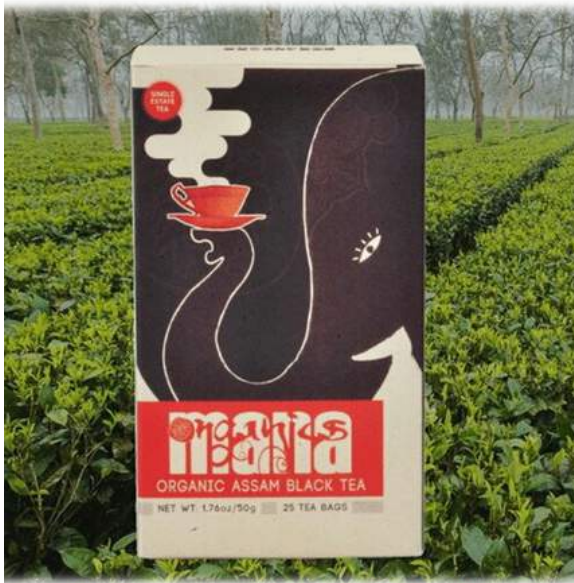


Click on the images
to read more...





TRIP OUT ON A TIGER PAWS TEA TRIP



Chota Tingrai Tea Estate has just launched a website which will enable people across India to order the highest quality of fresh teas shipped directly from the tea estate within 7 to 10 days of plucking! It is access to probably the freshest teas in the world.

With the subscription option, you can get fresh teas all the way from the tea estate in Assam to your doorstep every month without any hassle.

And it all comes at a steal as there is no middlemen or distribution charges involved. You won't believe how affordable great quality tea can be if sourced the right way.

Click on the link below and experience your daily dose of chai like never before :

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www.chotatingraitea.com

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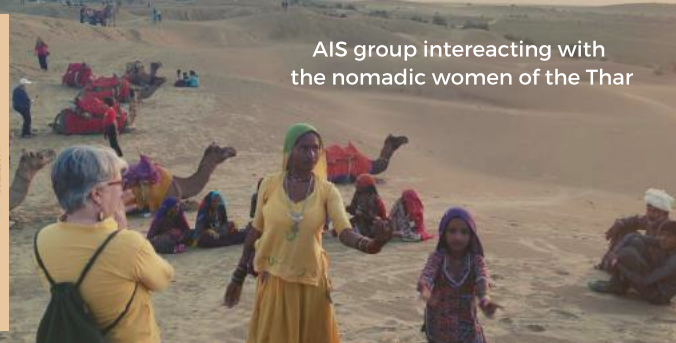
The Hallmark of Pinkcity Mills (PCM) products :

1. All raw material is garden fresh whole spices acquired from their origin places.
2. A perfect blend of spices is created by blending the examined ratio of different ingredients.
3. The spices are processed in automatic plants at every stage and quality of product is tested in the most modern labs.





AIS group at the saree draping class



AIS group interacting with the nomadic women of the Thar

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**FOR MORE INFO
CLICK HERE**

We hope to see you soon!

Inder Jit Singh
MD-CEO



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