



Rising Stories In The East

From the Director's Desk

DIRECTOR



Dear Readers,

March is a time of vibrant celebrations, spiritual traditions, and new beginnings. From Holi's festive colors to Bhumchu's sacred water prophecy and Mopin's harvest rituals, the month reflects the deep cultural richness of our regions. These age-old traditions not only unite communities but also remind us of the importance of heritage in shaping our future.

As we honor the past, we also embrace change. Impact tourism is transforming travel, offering immersive experiences that uplift local communities. Initiatives like Kalimpong's Agri-Venture Trail and Umden Silk Village allow travelers to engage meaningfully with nature and tradition. Meanwhile, adventure beckons with hot air balloon rides over Mirik, the pristine wilderness of Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park, and the evolving eco-tourism efforts at North Cinque Island.

The hospitality landscape continues to evolve, with new offerings like Planters Hotel in Darjeeling and Sonar Bangla, Joypur, promising memorable stays that blend heritage with modern comfort. And as we indulge in the flavors of the region—like Bhutan's fiery Ema Datshi—we celebrate travel that is not just about destinations but about experiences, connections, and meaningful impact.

As we step into a new season, let's explore with curiosity, responsibility, and a commitment to preserving the beauty of the places we cherish.

Here's to journeys that inspire, connect, and transform!

With Best Wishes,
Amit Periwal
Director



BHUMCHU *(The Sacred Water Prophecy of Sikkim)*
A Divine Ritual of Fortune & Blessings!
 Celebrated on **14th March**, Bhumchu is a revered Buddhist festival held at Tashiding Monastery in Sikkim. This sacred event centers around the ceremonial opening of the holy water vase (Bhumchu), which is believed to foretell the fortunes of Sikkim and the world for the coming year. Monks carefully examine the water level and quality, interpreting divine signs of prosperity, peace, or challenges ahead. Thousands of devotees gather to receive the blessed water, believed to bring spiritual protection and well-being. The festival also features traditional prayers, lamp-lighting rituals, and community gatherings, fostering a deep sense of faith, unity, and reverence.



HOLI 2025 *(The Festival of Colors & Joy!)*
A Celebration of Love, Unity & Spring!
 Celebrated on **March 14, 2025**, Holi is a vibrant festival that marks the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. The festivities begin with Holika Dahan, symbolizing the triumph of righteousness, followed by a day filled with color play, music, and joyous gatherings. People smear each other with gulal (colored powder), splash water, and share festive treats like gujiya and thandai. Rooted in mythology and tradition, Holi fosters harmony, togetherness, and boundless celebration, uniting people in a spirit of fun and festivity!



Mopin *(The Harvest Festival of Arunachal Pradesh)*
(A Celebration of Prosperity & Unity!)
Welcoming Knowledge, Music & Art.
 Celebrated on **April 5**, Mopin is a vibrant agricultural festival of the Galo tribe in Arunachal Pradesh. Marking prosperity and a bountiful harvest, it features traditional dances, rituals, and feasts, with the graceful Popir dance as a highlight. The smearing of 'Ette' (rice beer) symbolizes purity and goodwill, while mithun sacrifices honor Mopin Ane, the goddess of prosperity. This festival strengthens community bonds and showcases the rich heritage of the Galo people!



The Latest News **You Should Know**



New Tourism Guidelines for North Cinque Island – Public Feedback Invited

- The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has introduced a new SOP for tourism at North Cinque Island, focusing on environmental conservation and responsible tourism.
- The guidelines ensure visitor safety, regulate vessel operation, and promote sustainable tourism practices to protect the island's fragile ecosystem.
- Public input is encouraged, allowing residents, tourism operators, and environmental enthusiasts to review and contribute feedback for a balanced tourism approach.



Sikhna Jwhlwao National Park – Assam's Newest Protected Haven

- Officially declared on August 15, 2024, and notified as a protected area by the Assam government on February 16, 2025.
- Spanning 321.90 sq. km, the park is located in Chirang and Kokrajhar districts within the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).
- Named after Sikhna Jwhlwao (Jaolia Dewan), a Bodo warrior who fought against the British in the Anglo-Bhutan War of 1865.



Planters Hotel, Darjeeling – Coming Soon This April!

- A charming retreat in the heart of Darjeeling, offering a perfect blend of heritage and modern comfort.
- Thoughtfully designed rooms with stunning mountain views, promising a cozy and memorable stay.
- Indulge in premium hospitality with exceptional dining, warm service, and an ambiance that reflects the essence of Darjeeling.



Escape to Sonar Bangla, Joypur – A Tranquil Forest Retreat Near Bishnupur

Experience serenity in our 80-room retreat, featuring 5 luxury tent houses with private pools and 3 exclusive tree houses. Choose from Deluxe, Super Deluxe, Premium, or Platinum rooms, all designed for comfort, with select categories offering bathtubs.

- Enjoy our in-house multi-cuisine restaurant, refreshing swimming pool, and a range of indoor & outdoor games. A spa and bar are coming soon for the ultimate relaxation.
- Just 8 km from the historic Terracotta temple town of Bishnupur, Sonar Bangla, Joypur is nestled in a dense sal forest, offering a peaceful escape with modern comforts.



Unveiling **Northeast** India's Best Kept Secrets



Kalimpong's Agri-Venture Trail – Explore Nature, Farming & Culture

- Discover the heart of Kalimpong's rural life by engaging with local farmers, exploring organic farms, and learning about sustainable agriculture.
- Walk through picturesque terraced fields, traditional villages, and breathtaking Himalayan landscapes for an immersive countryside experience.
- Enjoy farm-fresh, locally sourced cuisine while soaking in the peaceful charm of Kalimpong's rich agrarian heritage.



Umden Village – Meghalaya's Silk Haven

- Discover Meghalaya's Silk Village, known for its rich Eri silk (Ahimsa silk) weaving and sustainable handloom traditions.
- Explore the traditional Khasi lifestyle of the indigenous Khasi Bhoi community, who have practiced sericulture for generations.
- Enjoy a scenic rural getaway, surrounded by lush greenery, rolling hills, and charming Khasi huts, offering a unique cultural experience.



Experience Village Tourism at Lopchu – A Hidden Gem Near Lamahatta, Darjeeling!

- Launching this Holi, a serene staycation in the untouched Lopchu tea estate village.
- Immerse in local culture, explore tea gardens, and enjoy breathtaking Kanchenjunga views.
- A perfect retreat for nature lovers, offering peace, adventure, and Himalayan hospitality.



Soar Above Mirik – Experience Hot Air Balloon Rides!

- Witness the breathtaking landscapes of Mirik from the skies, floating above lush tea gardens, serene Mirik Lake, and rolling hills.
- Whether seeking an adrenaline rush, a romantic getaway, or a peaceful retreat in the clouds, this adventure offers something special for everyone.
- Enjoy panoramic views, capture stunning photographs, and create lifelong memories with an unforgettable hot air balloon journey.

Bhutan's Fiery Chilli & Cheese Delight!

EMA DATSHI



EMA DATSHI is the national dish of Bhutan, known for its bold, spicy, and creamy flavors. The word EMA means chilli, and DATSHI refers to cheese, making this a deliciously simple yet flavorful dish. It is commonly served with red or white rice and is a staple in Bhutanese households.

Ingredients:

- 6–8 large green chillies (or red chillies for variation), sliced lengthwise
- 1 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 2 cups water
- 2 tbsp butter (optional for richness)
- 100g datshi (traditional Bhutanese cheese) or substitutes (feta, mozzarella, or cream cheese)
- Salt to taste
- ½ tsp black pepper (optional)

Directions:

1. **Prepare the Ingredients** – Wash and slice the chillies lengthwise. If you prefer less heat, remove the seeds. Thinly slice the onion and mince the garlic.
2. **Cook the Base** – In a pot, bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Add the chillies, onions, garlic, and tomatoes. Let it cook over medium heat for 5-7 minutes until the chillies soften.
3. **Add the Cheese** – Lower the heat and gradually add the datshi (or cheese substitute). Stir gently to let the cheese melt into a creamy consistency. Add salt and black pepper to taste.
4. **Final Touch** – Stir in butter (optional) for extra richness. Simmer for another 2-3 minutes until everything is well combined. Remove from heat and let it rest for a minute before serving.

Crafting Timeless Travel Memories at **SATTE2025!**



19-21 Feb 2025

Yashobhoomi
(India International Convention & Expo Centre), New Delhi

Thank you
for visiting us at Satte



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