

LAUNCH

# ARE YOU READY?

From forest-bathing at a heritage hotel to seeking zen at a monastic retreat, NEETI MEHRA picks all that's new-and-coming from the world of Indian hospitality

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## FOR CRICKET BUFFS

Earlier this year, Sangita Sinh Kathiwada opened to the public her private 19th century heritage mansion, Kathiwada Raaj Mahal, in Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh, which she restored into a majestic colonial outpost in the wilderness.

Taxidermy trophies, Art Deco furniture, sprawling verandas—this is a stunning world the likes of which are now only seen in sepia-toned photographs. But it's the world-class cricket ground, hemmed in by the Vindhya Hills, which is the real draw for lovers of the gentleman's game. *Kathiwada.com*

The Kathiwada Raaj Mahal is set within 110 acres of privately owned farmland

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## FOR IMMERSIVE TRAVELLERS

With the munificent Lake Pichola on the one side and the Aravallis on the other, The Oberoi Udaivilas in Udaipur is a modern-day palace for new-age royalty. The old favourite also offers new experiences to immerse yourself in Rajasthani culture. Try your hand at Thekri, a unique art form from the region, vignettes of which embellish the hotel. For the food-focussed, the hotel's interactive kitchens offer a masterclass on Rajasthani cuisine. *Oberoihotels.com*

ITC Royal Bengal opens early next year

## FOR JAZZ LOVERS

Still nursing a colonial hangover? The swanky ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata, slated to launch in the first half of 2019, is just the place for a good ole British-era fix. A splendid landmark coming up on the Kolkata skyline, its pièce de résistance is a jazz bar, a nod to the golden age of jazz in India that started in the 1930s and lasted for a good two decades till the riffs faded in the '50s. *Itchotels.in*

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COURTESY HIMANSHU LAKHWANI