

# COSMOPOLITAN

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*The  
HOPE  
Issue*

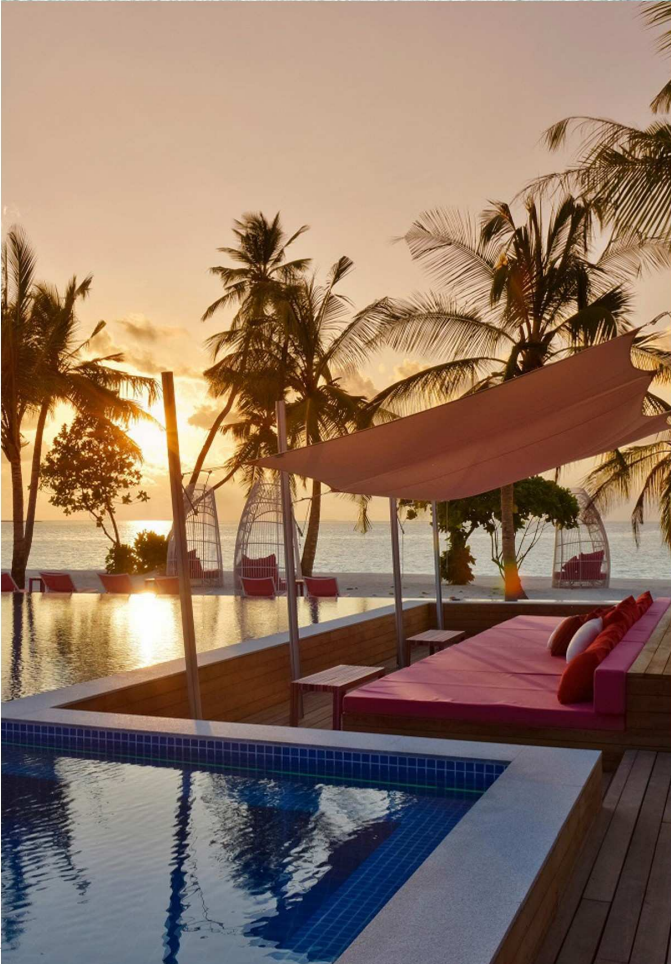
## *The Unseen Warriors*

INDIA'S MEDICAL HEROES AND THEIR DAILY  
BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19



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# The Other Side of Maldives



## ■ VISHAKHA TALREJA

The Maldives for long has been luxury traveler's destination of choice. Amid the pandemic the destination became holiday hotspot for Indians with everyone from honeymooning couples to families and even solo travelers vacationing in the Maldives.

If you thought that the gorgeous islands, known for its turquoise waters, white sand and swaying palms, are only for those looking for a quaint spot to spend a peaceful week at, you are in for a surprise. I spent a blissful week with family recently at the Kandima Maldives, just before the tourist visas were suspended for Indians. A 45-minute scenic seaplane ride away from Male, Kandima Maldives is a lifestyle resort that houses 264 studios and villas. Here is how this resort charmed me with its focus on active lifestyle and effortless hospitality.

### All Play, No Work

The motto of Kandima is that the

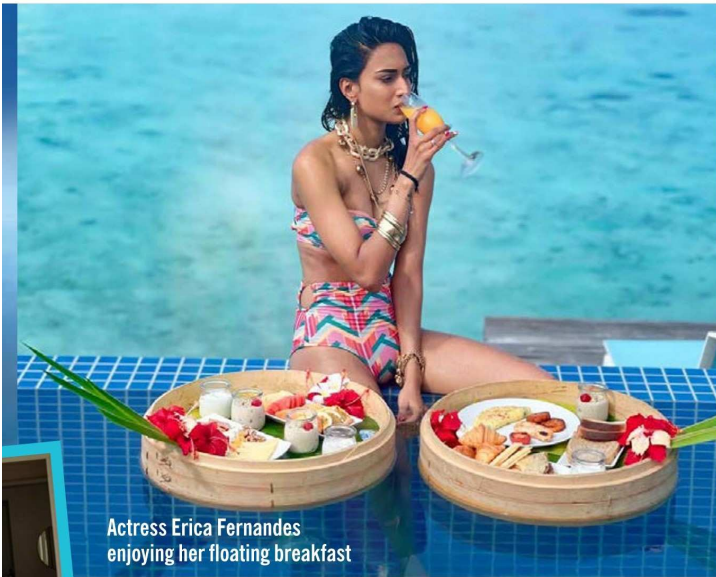
guests should stay active on their holiday while having lots of fun. So one can choose from Beach Boot Camp or Aerial Yoga at Burn, the studio that is open 24/7, to tennis, badminton and beach Volleyball at the sports arena.

No wonder Kandima is a hit among fitness-conscious B-Town and television celebs! Don't be surprised if you bump into one on the beach or cycle past them on the island.

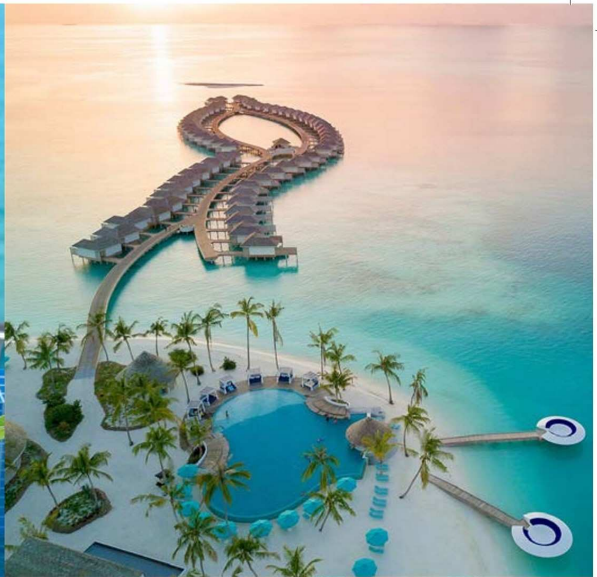
This resort is also home to the longest outdoor pool in the Maldives. Though I was quite happy hopping from my jacuzzi to plunge pool at the expansive Sunset Beach Villa. All rooms, be it over-water villas or beach studios, don a contemporary design that blends well with the vibe of the hotel.

During the day host of aquatic activities kept us engaged—snorkeling, surfing, kayaking, dolphin quest and wake boarding.

If skydiving is on your bucket list, you can tick it off at Kandima. It offers skydiving with experienced instructors, who will help you take a leap in the air from 12,000 feet.



Actress Erica Fernandes enjoying her floating breakfast



### Dine Like Royals

Kandima is an epicurean's delight. There are multi-cuisine restaurants like Flavour and Zest that feature live cooking stations and sumptuous buffet spreads, a Deli, vibrant bars and some specialty restaurants for memorable meals.

The Mediterranean restaurant Azure serves gluten and lactose-free menu along with tapas, steaks and a great wine list. The refurbished Sea Dragon restaurant offers Asian flavors with a modern twist. I have to admit, I was spoilt for choice when it came to choosing the dinner venue.

The resort also takes sustainability seriously. With Fresh Labs, its farm-to-table initiative, the resort sources fresh local Maldivian produce from the farms located at Kandima and surrounding islands, focusing on overall well-being of the guests.

Besides ten restaurants, there are other curated dining experiences

to choose from - the very Instagrammable floating breakfast in your private plunge pool, cast away bento picnic and barbecue on the beach.

### Never a Dull Moment

Kandima hosts pool parties, has a great line-up of DJs and live bands. Sundowners and happy hours at the Beach Club with sweeping views of the sea ensured that I have a heady holiday. If I had to pick one thing that sets apart Kandima from hundreds of other resorts in Maldives, I would say it is the fun casual vibe of this resort island.

I spent a soulful afternoon at the Aroma Cafe perched on a natural lake, painting with the resident artists. And guess what brought back my own piece of art along with memories. On my last day I prepped myself, for the hectic urban life that I was going back to, with a rejuvenating massage at the Escape spa. It wasn't just about the

hands working on my body, but the ocean waves that I could see and hear from my treatment bed that made it a truly therapeutic experience.

I was able to pack so many experiences for myself because my four-year old was happily enjoying at the kids play area- Kandiland. The expansive play area had a jam-packed itinerary for little guests and water slides too.

You cannot deny that the powdery white beaches, azure waters and the magnificence of nature make this destination irresistible, pandemic or not! Kandima is a great option if you are looking for a luxury holiday at a resort that follows all safety protocols, without burning a hole in your pocket. Bookmark this, we all will be travelling again soon.

*(Vishakha Talreja is the founder of The Hotel Explorer, a hotel discovery platform)*



Television actress Aamna Sharif doing Aerial yoga at Burn

