

APRIL 2026 | ISSUE 03



POKHARA

A GOOSEBUMPS WORKCATION

YEAR
THREE



THE FIRSTS THAT CHANGED US



KASOL TO
BIR TO
POKHARA





FOR ALL THE FIRSTS

WE ALMOST POSTPONED

AND THE MOMENTS WE FINALLY CHOSE TO EXPERIENCE.



THE START OF SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL ⚡

THREE YEARS AGO...

This didn't begin as a plan.
It began as a thought,
one that didn't leave.

We were all working
hard. Growing. Moving
forward.

But somewhere along
the way, something felt
left behind.

We were earning more but
not always enjoying what we
had earned.

ASHISH J BANKA

FOUNDER, GOOSEBUMPS



THE BEST DETOURS aren't PLANNED.

SO WE TRIED SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

- Trips were postponed.
- Plans didn't happen.
- And slowly, life became routine.
- Which never felt right.

Offsites usually follow a format:

- A few days away, some meetings, some downtime.
- But this wasn't meant to be a break from work.

- It was meant to be a different way of experiencing it.

DIFFERENT
HIT DIFFERENT



DIFFERENT
PLACE.
DIFFERENT
PERSPECTIVE.
DIFFERENT US.

WHAT IF



WORK DIDN'T STOP,

BUT LIFE DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT EITHER?



KASOL

- ✔ That's where it began.
- ✔ The idea.
- ✔ The first step out.



BIR

- ✔ That's where we felt it.
- ✔ The belief grew stronger.
- ✔ The impact was real.



POKHARA

- ✔ That's where we lived it.
- ✔ The rhythm.
- ✔ The connection.
- ✔ The transformation.

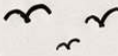


NEXT?

- ✔ More places.
- ✔ More firsts.
- ✔ More stories together.



WORK MORE
EXPERIENCE
MORE



THE JOURNEY
CONTINUES.
TOGETHER.



THE FIRSTS YOU NEVER FORGET



AT THE AIRPORT, ...

IT STARTED QUIETLY

The wait felt longer than usual.
The conversations felt lighter.
And somewhere in between, you could feel it.
Something had already begun.

Then take-off.

That brief silence.

That moment when everything pauses, just before the aircraft lifts.

And then it did.



Someone holding their boarding pass a little tighter.

Looking around. Taking it all in.
"First time?"



A small nod.

A smile that didn't need words.
For many, it was their first flight.
For some, their first time leaving the country.

First immigration queue.

First step into something unfamiliar.
These weren't just moments.

For the person experiencing it, they meant everything.

And watching it unfold right in front of us, that's when it truly hit.

THE MOMENT IT BECAME MORE THAN A TRIP

THE JOURNEY HAD ALREADY BEGUN.
NOT AT THE DESTINATION,
BUT ON THE WAY.

At the airport.
On the flight.

In conversations that felt different.
People who hadn't spoken much before,
now sat together.

Sharing stories.

Laughing a little easier.
And then, something unexpected.

A sweet gesture from IndiGo.

It was a small moment. Easy to miss.
But it stayed. Because it wasn't about
the acknowledgement.

It was about what it meant.

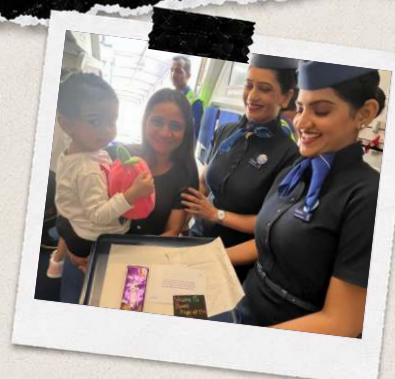
**A group travelling together with a
certain energy. A certain presence.
Something that stood out.**

And in that moment - without saying it
out loud - we all felt it.



THIS WASN'T JUST
A TRIP ANYMORE.
IT WAS SOMETHING
WE HAD BUILT.

TOGETHER.



POKHARA

WHERE WE SLOWED DOWN

DID YOU KNOW?

Pokhara

is often called the
"Switzerland of Nepal"

for its breathtaking alpine scenery,
snow-capped Himalayan backdrop,
and serene lakes.



The arrival didn't feel dramatic. It felt... quiet.
No rush. No urgency. Just a slow shift.

The air felt different.

The pace felt different.

And without realising it,
we had already begun to slow down.
Surrounded by mountains, anchored by Fewa Lake,
there was a calm that didn't ask for attention.



A PLACE THAT FELT LIKE HOME... ♡



Shanti Cottage became more than just where we stayed.

It became where we settled.

Mornings began quietly.

People finding their corners.

Opening laptops. Starting their day.
Just like always.

And yet, nothing felt the same.

There was ease.
No friction.
No noise.



Lamaji ensured everything just... worked.

Bechang Bhai was always around, making sure everyone felt taken care of.

Not in a formal way. But in a way that felt personal.

And slowly, this didn't feel like a stay anymore.

It Felt Like Ours

☆
☼ **SAME WORK,**
DIFFERENT
FEELING... ♡



Work didn't stop.

Calls happened.

Deadlines were met.

Deliverables went out.

Everything stayed on track.

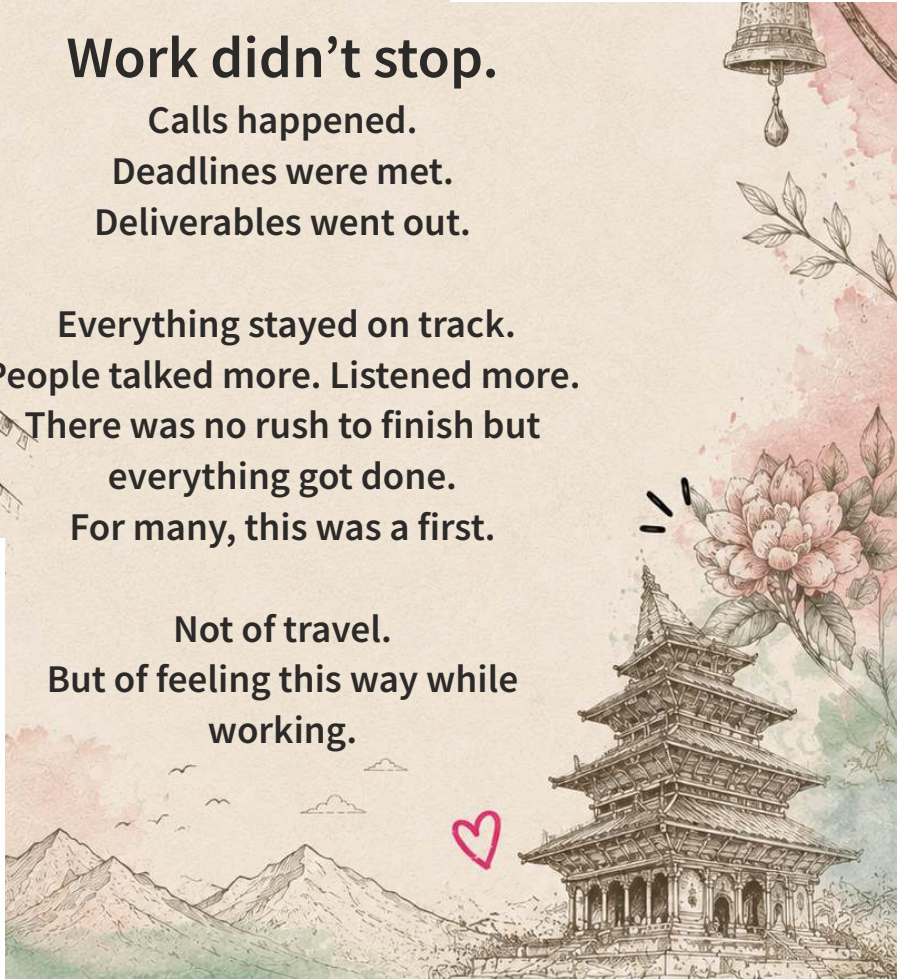
People talked more. Listened more.

There was no rush to finish but
everything got done.

For many, this was a first.

Not of travel.

But of feeling this way while
working.



WE DIDN'T VISIT POKHARA, *We Lived It...*



There was no plan. No checklist to follow.
No rush to get anywhere.

We walked. Sometimes without
knowing where we were going.
Sometimes without needing to.
Lakeside became a rhythm.

**THE BEST MOMENTS
ARE NOT PLANNED.
THEY ARE FELT.**

Walking past cafés.
Stopping without a reason.
Sitting longer than we intended.

Mornings felt slower.
Evenings stretched.

**We weren't trying to "cover"
Pokhara.**

We were experiencing it.
And somewhere in between, without
noticing when, it stopped feeling like a
place we had come to, and started feeling
like a place we were part of.



CONVERSATIONS THAT STAYED LONGER THAN COFFEE ---



One coffee turned into
conversations.
Not just about work.

About life.

About journeys.



About things we don't
usually say out loud.

Stories we hadn't heard before.

Sides of people we hadn't
seen before.



NIGHTS WITHOUT ROLES

As the sun went down,
something else took over.

Music played - sometimes
Turkish, sometimes Bollywood.



No one cared what came
next.

People sang.

Some danced.

Some just sat and watched.



SARANGKOT

A morning that needed no words



DID YOU KNOW? 

Sarangkot

offers **breathtaking sunrises**
alongside stunning views of
the mighty peaks of
Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, and Manaslu. 



PUMDIKOT

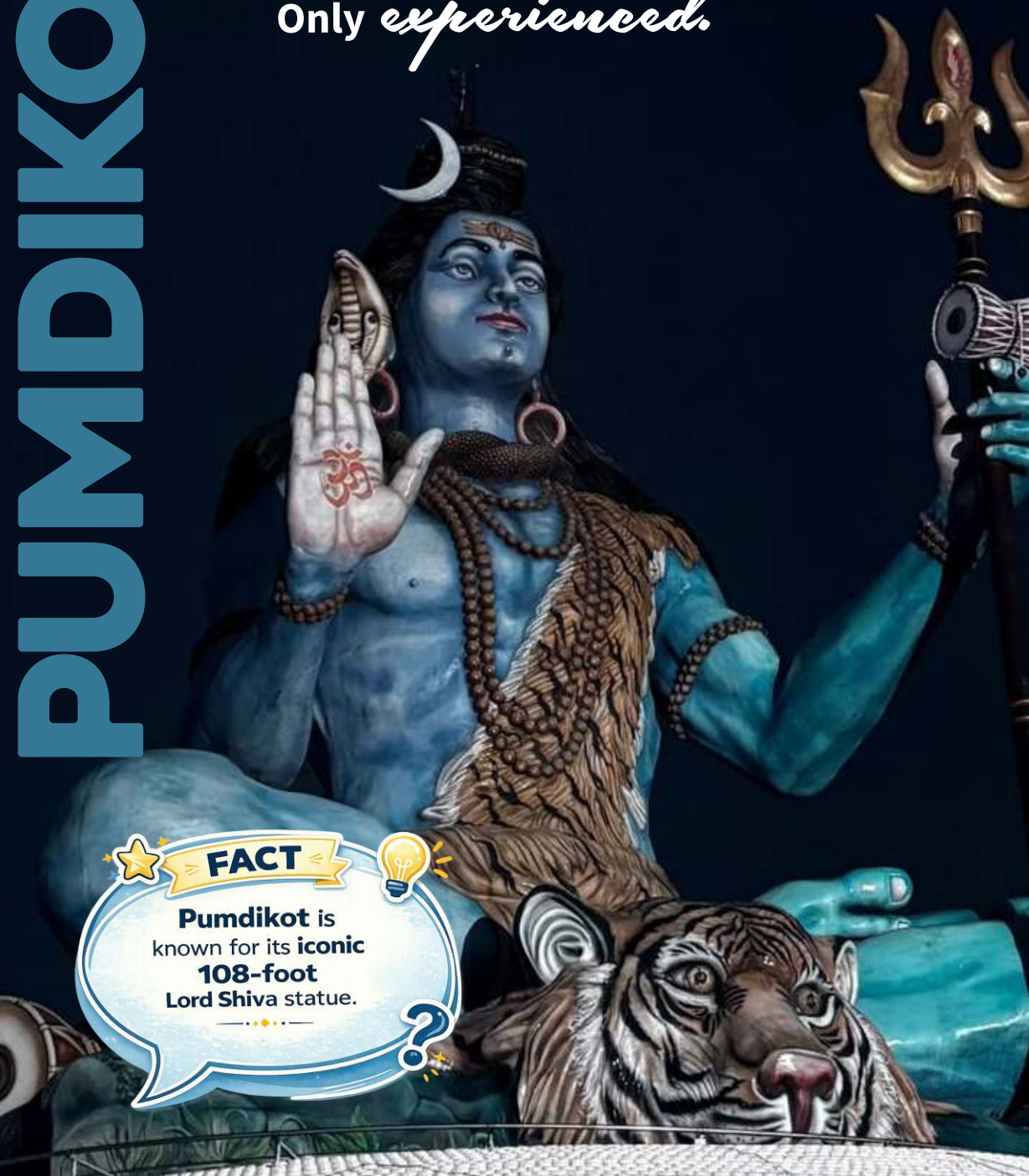
Some moments are not
meant to be explained.
Only *experienced.*



FACT



Pumdikot is
known for its **iconic**
108-foot
Lord Shiva statue.



KATHMANDU

WHERE IT ALL TURNED INWARD



DID YOU KNOW?

Home to the revered
Pashupatinath Temple,
Kathmandu has been a centre of faith
and pilgrimage for centuries.

Until now, the journey had a rhythm.
Movement. Conversations.
Laughter.
Kathmandu changed that.
This wasn't just another part of the journey.
It was a pause. A deeper one.
And it was leading us somewhere.





For those who believe, this is
not a place you plan.
It's a place you reach.
And somehow, everything aligned.

We were able to perform a
Rudrabhishek.
All 25 of us together.

Not something you expect.
Not something that happens easily.
And yet, it did.
The rituals began.
Chants filled the space.
Time slowed down.

For a while, nothing else existed.
For many, it was their first time.
Some stood still.
Some closed their eyes.
And for some, it became
overwhelming.

There were tears.
Not of sadness.
But of something deeper.

A sense of gratitude.
A sense of fulfilment.

Something that's hard to
explain but impossible to forget.
Not everyone gets to experience this.
And in that moment, it didn't
feel like a coincidence.
It felt like a calling.



We continued



Manokamna Devi

Budhanilkantha Temple



Doleshwar Mahadev



**The Evening Aarti at
Pashupatinath Temple**



**WHAT YOU FEEL
IN SILENCE,
STAYS THE
LONGEST.**





We didn't just return with memories.

**We returned
with moments.**

A reminder that not everything has to be rushed.
That sometimes, you just need to pause...
To feel what you've been working so hard for.

And that stayed.

Firsts that meant more than we
expected. Conversations that stayed
longer than the trip.

Experiences we didn't know we
needed.

Things that can't be packed. Things
that don't fade easily.

**A different way of
looking at time.**



Until next time



goosebumps™
NETWORK



HAPPIEST PLACES TO WORK
CERTIFIED 2025-26

ASHISH J BANKA
FOUNDER, GOOSEBUMPS