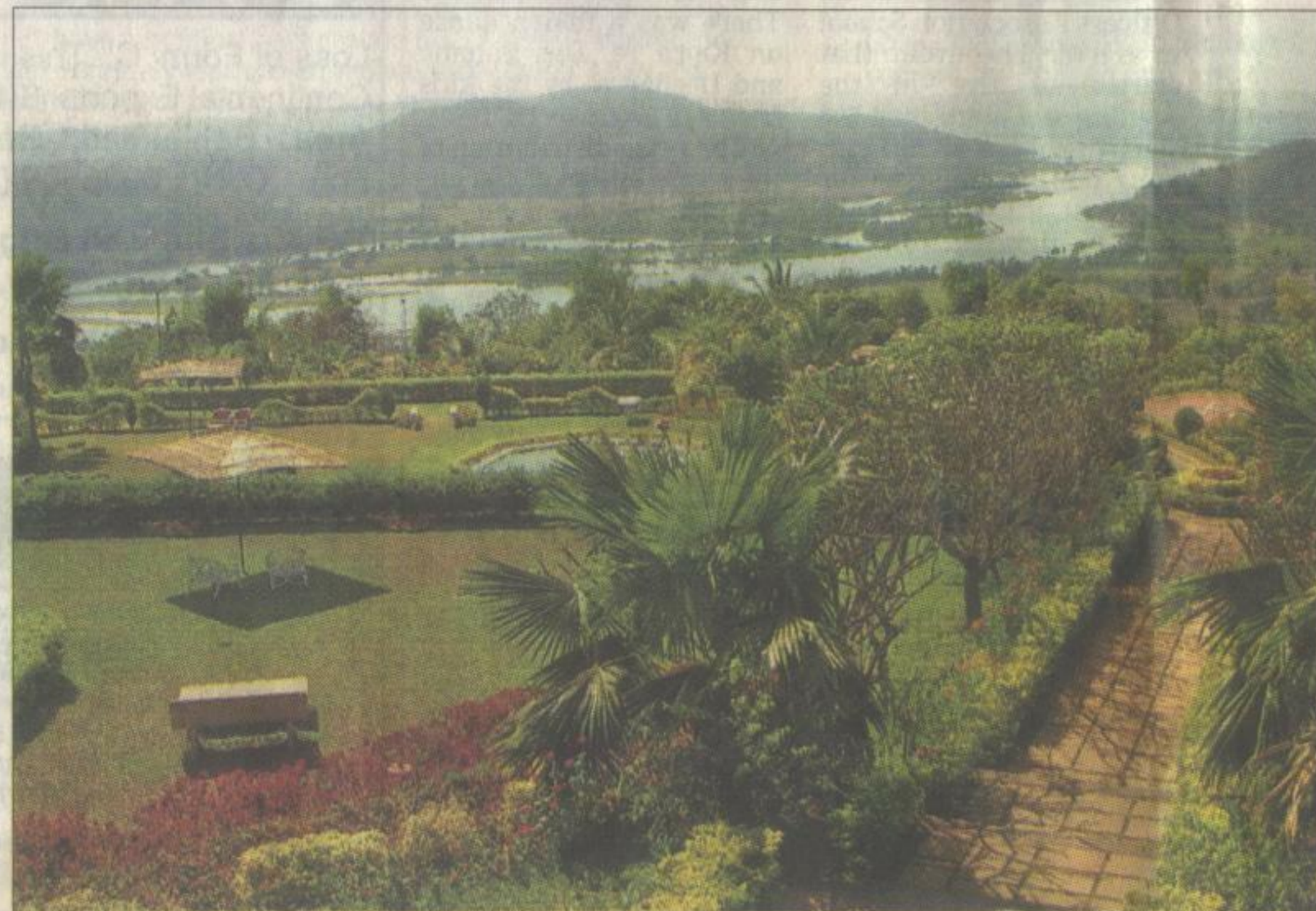


Chilling out in Chiplun

The kids are having their vacations, things are relaxed at office and this is just the right time to take the weekend off and head for a quick break to the serene destination perched along the Mumbai-Goa highway



A Gracias. Vashi

Today is Friday and the weekend is ahead of you. Instead of the same boring drill of crawling the malls and grabbing a quick bite at the food court, how about getting away from the mad rush and chilling out for a couple of days. And if a good destination is what you are looking for, Chiplun is as good as you can get. With neither the typical feel of a Lonavala nor the wilderness of an off-beat outing, Chiplun has just the right mix of good accessibility, great local excursions and one hot hotel to stay in.

Where?

Chiplun is an idyllic town about 240 km away,

located bang on the Mumbai-Goa highway. Getting there is half the fun, more so if you plan to drive down. Leave Navi Mumbai at the crack of dawn, tuck into a misal-pao at Panvel, have a tea at Kamat's in Mahad before taking on the mighty Kasheli ghat and before you know you are hurtling down to the old world charm of Chiplun.

The roads of Mumbai-Goa NH 17 are super smooth and you should negotiate the journey in 6 hours, factoring in the two-three breaks along the way - just in time for an early lunch in Chiplun.

Why?

This beautiful town is the the right place to

drop anchor and take day-trips to exotic locales nearby. The sheer sight of the Vashishti river calmly flowing through Chiplun is worth going all the way. Going on a boat ride in the river is a different trip altogether.

Certain stretches are reminiscent of the backwaters of Kerala, while others are straight out of a 'Lost in Amazon' flick. On a lucky day, you get to see swamps of crocodiles soaking the sun on the small islands in the middle of the river. Not to mention, the amazing variety of birds that flock the unspoilt and serene parts of the river's habitat. The best part is that if you are staying at The Riverview, the boat cruise comes complimentary with the package.

Then, you can do the day-trips to Guhagar Beach (50 kms), Ganpatipule (110 km), Parshuram Temple (200 metres) and mango country Ratnagiri (80 km).

Where to stay? If you want to stay in the hotel with the best view and super comforts, then check out the Quality Resort's The Riverview. The place has an old world charm, with every room overlooking the winding river.

Apart from all creature comforts, the hotel offers games and activities to keep the kids busy, while you unwind in luxury. The former Taj property retains all the class of a luxury resort, with a team of concerned guys ensuring great service. Contact: 22810088.



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