The TAAI Magazine

NamasTAAI

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Summer 2024 breaks all Tourism records

Giving wings to the nation*

2010
8.5 Mn

2015
36 Mn

2019
76 Mn

2023
100 Mn



*Source: IndiGo internal data.

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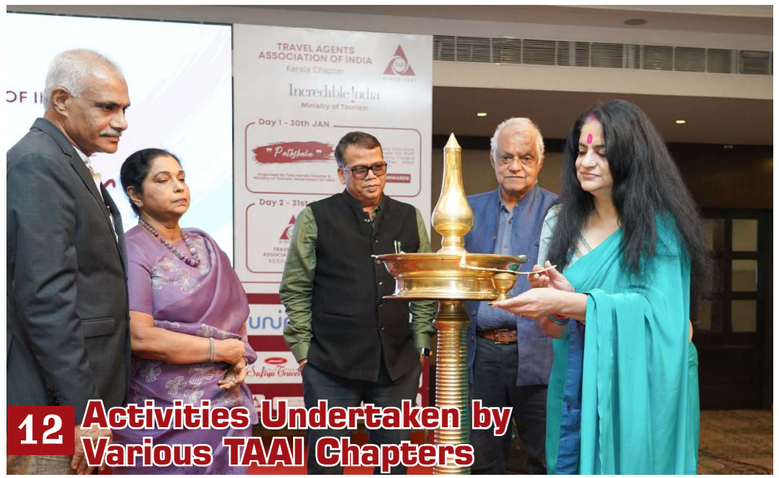
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Message

Dear Esteemed Members,

As the President of the oldest premier Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), our commitment to excellence is reflected in our continuous efforts to educate our members about the latest products in the travel industry and to focus on enhancing their skills. In an ever-evolving market, staying abreast of new developments and technologies is crucial for maintaining a competitive edge and providing the best service to clients.

The travel industry is dynamic, with new products and services being introduced regularly. At TAAI, we ensure that our members are well-informed about these innovations. This includes detailed information on new travel destinations, the latest booking technologies, emerging travel trends, and updates on airline services and hospitality offerings. By providing comprehensive training sessions, webinars, and workshops, we empower our members to expand their product knowledge.

Skill development is at the core of TAAI's mission. We believe that a well-skilled travel agent can significantly enhance the travel experience for clients. Our skilling initiatives are designed to cover various aspects such as customer service excellence, effective communication, digital marketing, financial management, and crisis handling. We also focus on specialised training for niche travel markets like luxury travel, adventure tourism, and eco-tourism.

The travel sector is subject to rapid changes, often influenced by global events, technological advancements, and consumer behaviour shifts. TAAI encourages its members to be adaptable and forward-thinking. We provide resources and guidance on how to navigate these changes, ensuring that our members can swiftly adapt their business models and strategies to meet the new demands of the market.

Most importantly, networking is a vital part of the travel industry. TAAI fosters a community where members can collaborate, share insights, and support each other. Through events and conferences, we facilitate opportunities for members to connect with industry leaders, influencers, and peers. This collaborative environment not only enhances learning but also opens doors to new business opportunities.

As travel professionals, we have a responsibility towards sustainable tourism. TAAI promotes practices that are environmentally friendly and socially responsible. We educate our members on sustainable travel options and encourage them to incorporate these practices into their offerings. This not only helps in preserving destinations for future generations but also appeals to the growing segment of eco-conscious travellers.

Taking our responsibility seriously, I am delighted to share some encouraging developments with you. Recently, we had a very positive meeting with the new Tourism Minister – Shri Ganjendra Singh Shekhawat, which has bolstered our confidence in the bright future of our industry. The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) is optimistic about the potential boom in tourism with some strategic support from the government.

Our discussions focused on the critical need for increased budget allocations to the tourism sector in the upcoming budget. We emphasized that targeted investments and policy support can significantly enhance infrastructure, promote sustainable tourism, and create numerous employment opportunities across the country. The Minister was receptive to our proposals and expressed a genuine commitment to fostering the growth of tourism.

With the new government assuming office at the Centre and Budget 2024 round the corner, TAAI has also reiterated its earlier requests to Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, and Hon. Civil Aviation Minister Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu

Through our communication we have emphasised that the establishment of new airports through private participation is crucial for infrastructural development and equally important is the rapid expansion in rail, road, and waterways, including sea and river cruises, which will enhance connectivity and accessibility.

We must focus on high-growth areas such as religious circuits, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions), wellness tourism, and hidden gems like Lakshadweep. Simplifying visa requirements and encouraging visa-free entry for tourists can significantly boost foreign tourist arrivals. Reducing Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) costs to pre-pandemic levels would make air travel more accessible, while a more favourable GST structure, allowing input tax credit for holiday businesses, could lead to more affordable hotel stays, thus encouraging investment in the sector.

Additionally, strategic reduction in income tax could catalyse growth in the tourism industry. The abolishment of TCS on outbound travel is necessary, as the current collection disincentivizes Indian travel agents, tour operators and travellers. Tax exemption on Leave Travel Allowance (LTA) would further encourage domestic travel. Removing TDS on automated bookings would reduce administrative burdens for travel businesses, and simplifying licensing requirements would ease business operations. Finally, granting industry status to all stakeholders in travel, tourism, and hospitality is essential for recognizing and supporting the sector's significant contribution to the economy.



The Union Budget 2024 holds significant expectations for India's travel and tourism sector. India's travel and tourism sector contributes 5.8% to the GDP and aims for a target of USD 1 trillion by 2047. We hope the budget addresses these priorities!

We are confident that these measures, if implemented, can significantly enhance India's travel and tourism industry, benefiting both businesses and travellers.

Warm regards,

Jyoti Mayal,
President, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)

Message

Dear Esteemed Members,

The Financial Year of 2023-24 ended on a positive note bringing cheer to all of us. The holiday season from April to June'24 doesn't seem to end and brings more joy to our business.

Although we are facing the challenges of GST and TCS for outbound travel, we have seen an overall increase in the inbound and domestic business in the last 2 years. At TAAI we have been taking up the issues of GST and TCS with the Finance Ministry on a regular basis. Our efforts are going unnoticed, but we are not giving up until ease of doing business as promised by the Hon.'able Prime Minister Modi ji responds to our concerns.

Once again in July'24 we have written to the Finance Minister before the budget that is being presented on 23rd July'24 on the challenges of GST and TCS. The new Tourism Minister has taken note of our concern and has assured to take up the matter with the Finance Minister before the upcoming Budget'24. We at TAAI have also had several meetings with various State Tourism Ministers and officials with a request to intervene in the matters pertaining to these taxation challenges which are impacting the growth of outbound tourism from India.

Our 20 Regions and Chapters go into Election mode in July'24 and time for change and upgradation of leadership is about to begin. You as a part of the Association have the right to elect your representatives who shall take forward your challenges to the national committee from time to time. So don't forget to wisely choose the best amongst yourselves, who shall be willing to devote additional time and effort to the betterment of the trade and the association as a whole.

This issue of NamasTAAI brings out the activities conducted by all regions and chapters of TAAI along with that of the National Committee.



We have also taken up issues with various European Embassies with regards to the challenges in getting appointments and processing times for the visas. VFS has been a strong supporter of TAAI and its members and is always available to assist us, guide us and hold our hands during issues that come up from time to time, across the country. Countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka have extended their free visa regime for Indian travellers. India too has reciprocally permitted free e-visas to many neighbouring countries for enhancement and tourism to India.

The month of June was very challenging when most of our Active – IATA Accredited agents faced challenges in providing Financial security to IATA. Those who were a part of the TAAI – IATA Joint Bank Guarantee, did not face challenges but those who were providing individual Bank Guarantee faced hardships due to many banks not being able to support the new e-system of the BG's. However, TAAI in the last minute added a few members facing such hardships and also assisted each and every member who approached us to resolve the issue along with the support of IATA. We sincerely appreciate IATA support in India as well as their Singapore office who assisted us on every single query of over 50-60 members providing individual securities. The office bearers of TAAI worked round the clock to have this issue resolved.

Friends,

As this term of this Managing Committee (2022-24) comes to an end, I would like to thank each and everyone of you for supporting the Association, its office bearers, committee members and the staff who have worked tirelessly towards the betterment of the trade at large during this term.

I look forward to your support and good wishes in the coming future.

Warm Regards,

Jay Bhatia

Vice President, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)

Dear Esteemed Members,

I am pleased to share with you that this has been a remarkable year for tourism. We are witnessing positive trends across all segments—inbound, outbound, and domestic tourism. The numbers are picking up steadily, indicating a robust recovery and a promising future for our industry.

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) remains steadfast in its commitment to the betterment of its members. Our efforts are centered on ensuring that our members are well-equipped to navigate the evolving landscape of the tourism sector. This year, we have intensified our focus on skilling and capacity building. We believe that empowering our members with the latest knowledge and skills is crucial for their success and the overall growth of the industry.

We have organized numerous training programs and workshops, covering a wide range of topics from digital marketing to sustainable tourism practices. These initiatives have been well-received, and we are encouraged by the positive feedback from participants. Our goal is to continue providing valuable resources and support to our members, helping them stay competitive and thrive in this dynamic environment.

Moreover, we have renewed hope with the new Tourism Minister now in charge. Our recent interactions with the Minister have been extremely encouraging. We have discussed several key issues, including the need for better infrastructure, simplified visa processes, and more favorable tax policies. The Minister has shown a genuine commitment to addressing these concerns and supporting the growth of the tourism sector.

With the government's support and our collective efforts, we are confident that we can achieve significant milestones in the coming year. The positive trends we are seeing now are just the beginning. Together, we can build on this momentum and create a thriving tourism industry that benefits all stakeholders.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our association. Let us look forward to a prosperous year ahead, filled with new opportunities and successes.

Warm regards,

Lokesh Bettaiah

Hon. Secretary, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)



Message

Dear Esteemed Members,

I am delighted to report that this year has been exceptionally promising for tourism. We are witnessing a significant upturn in inbound, outbound, and domestic travel, with numbers steadily rising. This positive trend signals a strong recovery and an optimistic outlook for our industry.

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) remains dedicated to the advancement of our members. Our continuous efforts are aimed at enhancing the capabilities and opportunities available to you. This year, we have placed a special emphasis on skilling and professional development. We believe that providing our members with cutting-edge skills and knowledge is essential for navigating the ever-evolving tourism landscape.

We have organized a series of training programs and workshops covering various aspects of the industry, from digital innovation to sustainable tourism practices. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, reinforcing our belief in the importance of these initiatives. Our commitment is to continue offering valuable resources and support to ensure our members remain competitive and successful.

Additionally, we are filled with renewed hope under the leadership of the new Tourism Minister. Our recent meetings with the Minister have been highly productive and encouraging. We have discussed crucial issues such as infrastructure development, streamlining visa processes, and creating favorable tax policies. The Minister has shown a strong commitment to addressing these challenges and supporting the growth of the tourism sector.

With the backing of the government and our concerted efforts, we are confident in achieving significant progress in the coming year. The current positive trends are just the beginning. Together, we can build on this momentum to create a thriving tourism industry that benefits everyone involved.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to TAAI. Let us look forward to a prosperous year ahead, filled with new opportunities and successes.



Warm regards,

Shreeram Patel

Treasurer, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)

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TAAI Networking Events

TAAI & STIC Travel Group hosted a webinar on Cruises

The Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI), in collaboration with STIC Travel Group, hosted a webinar on Cruises on May 30, 2024. The event saw participation from 230 TAAI members across India, including those from tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

The webinar, which lasted for an hour, featured a comprehensive product presentation by the STIC Travels team led by Ms. Isha Goyal (CEO STIC Group)and Sanjay Kapoor, Director of Cruises and Leisure at STIC Travel Group . With decades of unparalleled expertise in the cruise industry, the team provided valuable insights during the session.

Mrs. Jyoti Mayal, President of TAAI, and Anoop Kanuga, Chairman of TAAI Tourism & Roadshows Council, played pivotal roles in facilitating collaboration with STIC Travel and organizing this informative webinar for the benefit of TAAI members.



B2B Incredible India Business Networking Event in Dubai establishes strong business ties with GCC Buyers to boost tourist traffic to India

On the sidelines of Arabian Travel Mart, Travel Agents Association of India in a collaborative effort supported by Ministry of Tourism (Govt of India) and VFS Global successfully hosted a B2B Incredible India Evening – "Fostering Partnerships and Connections" on 8th May 2024 at Taj Dubai. This exclusive event brought together key industry professionals to foster partnerships and connections within the travel and tourism sector, with a primary focus on driving tourism visitorship to India.

The event witnessed the participation of 200+ esteemed buyers from across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, who engaged with an impressive array of 40 Indian stakeholders, including state tourism boards, Destination









Management Companies (DMCs), and airline partners. This platform provided invaluable networking opportunities, enabling meaningful discussions and offering insights into the diverse offerings that India, as a premier travel destination, has to offer.

The dignitaries present on the stage for the lightening of lamp included Mr. Gyan Bhushan (IES - Senior Economic Advisor, Ministry of Tourism, Govt of India); Mr. Rohan Khaunte (Hon'ble Tourism Minister of Goa); Mr. Atul Marwah (Chief Operating Officer, Middle East and Egypt, VFS Global) and Mrs Jyoti Mayal (President of Travel Agents Association of India). TAAI Managing Committee Member & Chairman of TAAI Tourism & Roadshows Council Mr. Anoop Kanuga, TAAI Southern Region Chairperson Mrs. Devaki Thiyagarajan and its Hon. Secretary Mrs Padmini Narayanan, were also present. The top officials from Ministry of Tourism (Govt of India), VFS Global, Air India and IndiGo attended.

Mrs. Mayal and Mr. Kanuga coordinated with Ministry of Tourism (Govt of India), State Tourism Boards and VFS Global for the event With the GCC region being a key source market for Indian tourism, initiatives such as the B2B Incredible India Evening play a crucial role in strengthening business ties and encouraging long-term partnerships. By facilitating direct engagement between GCC buyers and Indian tourism stakeholders, the event opened up new avenues for collaboration and lays the foundation for sustainable tourism growth.

The overall success of Incredible India networking event was a result of culmination of a vision to invest in the entire eco-system of Travel and Tourism and Hospitality industry internationally and with the right partners.

TAAI acknowledges the support of Ministry of Tourism (Govt. of India), State Tourism Boards, VFS Global and special thanks to Air India and IndiGo (TAAI's airline partners) for sponsoring the event.

Activities undertaken by various TAAI chapters

TAAI has been instrumental in bringing travel agents across the various states together. Every chapter across the state conducts various types of activities such as sports tournaments, knowledge sessions, FAM trips, networking sessions etc. They also celebrate various festivals and conduct social activities on occasions such as Women's Day, awareness campaigns about voting and a lot more. Various activities were held cross the various chapters of TAAI under the Chairmanship of their respective Chapter Chairmen/ Chairperson in the first half of 2024. Here is an overview of the various activities undertaken.

Shreya Shimpi

TAAI Kerala Chapter

Inputs by Mariyamma Jose, Chairperson

The Chapter Day celebrations of a 2-day program were held at Gokulam Convention Centre on January 30 and 31, 2024. On January 30, program was sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. More than 260 delegates attended the "Pathshala" workshop piloted by D Venkitesh, Regional Director, Ministry of Tourism. Other distinguished speakers were D Jagadeesh, Additional Secretary, Tourism Department, Govt. of Kerala; Rajashekhar, Principal, Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition Kovalam, Kerala; George Dominic, CGH Group of Hotels; Neelkanth Pararath - Innovator in Travel & Hospitality, AI Geek, Social Entrepreneur. The delegates were Managerial and supervisory-level staff from the hospitality sector, tour operators, travel agencies, and airlines, along with numerous students from various tourism and hospitality institutes. The overwhelming interest underscores the need for this upskilling initiative in the sector. Lunch was served to all the delegates who attended the Workshop. A certificate of participation was issued to all the delegates who attended. It was covered in print and visual media.

On January 31,2024, the ninth chapter meeting was held at Gokulam Convention Centre in the presence of the National President. The TAAI Day was celebrated with cocktails and dinner at the same venue where Madam Jyoti Mayal was the chief guest. Loknath Behera IPS, Managing Director, KMRL was the guest of honour. Mr. Jose Dominic was recognized for his Achievements in the tourism industry. All past Chairpersons were honoured by the Chapter. Airline representatives, hotel associates, VFS representatives from Bangalore, and Cochin and Other association heads were present for the celebrations.

On April 16, 2024, the tenth Chapter meeting was held at Daya by Renai and Regional Director D Venkit addressed the Chapter.

Women's Day Celebration at St. Teresas Women's College, organized by India Tourism was inaugurated by the Chapter Chairperson.





TAAI Gujarat Chapter

Inputs by Virendra Shah, Chairman

The fifth Chapter meeting was held at Hotel Renaissance, Ahmedabad on November 30, 2023 in which the airlines, GDS and VFS were invited. The meeting was followed by dinner and networking.

The Turkiye Road show was held on February 06, 2024, at Hyatt Vastrapur. It was well attended by around 150 agents.

During the South Africa roadshow held at Hyatt Regency, Ahmedabad on February 14, 2024 the members met Ms Neliswa Nkani from South Africa Tourism.

The 6th Chapter meeting at Gran Eulogia took place on February 26, 2024. The meeting was attended by nearly 35 members. The members met with the VFS team on February 28, 2024, at Hyatt Regency, Ahmedabad.









TAAI Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Chapter

Inputs by Hemendra Singh Jadon, Chairman

The 5th chapter meeting was held on February 03, 2024 at Best Western Hotel, Indore. Trip Track and Pilgrimage DMC gave a knowledge session on Char Dham Yatra to all members. The meeting and cocktails were sponsored by TTP. BAKU FAM - The FAM was organised for TAAI MP & CG members by Destination Launcher DMC from February 11 – 14, 2024. It was a great opportunity for members to explore the destination, its culture, architecture, cuisine, people, etc. Mr. Hemendra Singh Jadon lead the group.

The 6th Chapter meeting was held at Hotel Marriott Raipur. The meeting was attended by a good number of agents of the MP & CG chapter in which insightful discussions on MP & CG tourism growth took place. Abatera Dubai DMCs Mohit Sood & Ms Shivika Sharad did a knowledge session on new attractions in UAE. The meeting and cocktail dinner was hosted by Abatera DMC.

Taj Usha Kiran Palace, Gwalior FAM - TAAI MP & CG Chapter arranged a fantastic and Royal FAM for their members. During the trip, members not only experienced this property but also visited the various attractions of Gwalior and understood its History, culture, cuisine, and architecture. TAAI MP & CG members with Chairman Hemendra Singh Jadon & Secretary Amit Navlani did a campaign at different locations in Indore to encourage people to vote.







Central & South Maharashtra Chapter

Inputs by Mehboob Shaikh, Chairman

The TAAI Cricket Tournament 2024, the most awaited event of the year took place from January 27 – February 18, 2024 every Saturday and Sunday at Laxmi Lawn Ground Magarpatta Pune and Campions field Amanora Town for the Semis and Final matches. This year it was the15th Edition. It witnessed successful participation from various teams from the travel industry. The Final Match was played on February 18, 2024 between Ebix Cash and Thomas Cook which was won by Thomas Cook. This occasion was graced by National President Madam Jyoti Mayal, National VP Jay Bhatia and Hon. Treasurer Mr. Shriram Patel. The winning team was Thomas Cook, the first Runner up was Team Ebix Cash, second Runner up team was Team Girikand Travels and the fourth position was secured by Team Pune United. All teams were awarded with trophies which were presented by President Madam Jyoti Mayal and Hon. Treasurer Shreeram Patel. The dignitaries present were Bahram Zadah – MC Member, Past National President, Balbir Mayal, Past Chapter Chairman, Krishna Gopalan, and OB of Chapter Mehboob Shaikh – Chairman, Yazdi Marker – Hon Secretary and Zakir Sayed – Hon. Treasurer with other Members. The main sponsor of the event, Gaurav from Andaman Insider graced the occasion with his presence.



TAAI – Pune Chapter Meeting was held on February 17, 2024 at The Amanora Fern Pune. The meeting was graced by National President – Mrs. Jyoti Mayal, National Vice President Jay Bhatia and Hon. Treasurer Shreeram Patel along with 50 other members who attended the meeting. Many questions asked by members were answered by the National Managing Committee members. The meeting was followed by a presentation by Gaurav from Andaman Insider, who was the Title Sponsor for the 15th Edition of the TAAI Cricket Tournament.

TAAI Northern Region

Inputs by Neeraj Malhotra, Chairman

Northern Region held its Bi-Monthly meeting on the April 26, 2024, at the Vivanta By Taj, New Delhi wherein they had invited Air India which was headed by Manish Puri – Head of Sales along with his Team for an interaction with our Members; The meeting was well attended by the Northern Region members .They interacted with the Air India team and Manish Puri answered all the questions raised by members and also shared Air India's future plans and initiatives. The meeting was also graced by our Honourable President Mrs. Jypti Mayal, Office Bearers of the Northern Region Neeraj Malhotra-Chairman, Anurag Agarwal-Hon. Secretary, Neeraj Kumar Sarna-Hon Treasurer and Senior TAAI-NR Members attended the meeting.











TAAI J&K Chapter

Inputs by Ather Yameen Narwari, Chairman

During their recent seventh Bi-Monthly meeting, their large focus was on pressing issues about the travel and tourism industry, which were discussed. Among the key topics discussed were the availability of Gulmarg gondola tickets and airport arrival passes. The meeting garnered an enthusiastic response from all members, particularly industry veterans. There was a notable emphasis on safeguarding the interests of local travel agents, with members urging the formulation of policies to support their viability amidst challenging market conditions.

Also, after almost three decades, Airport Authority of Srinagar waived the airport arrival pass requirement for The Travel Agents Association of India.

TAAI J&K Chapter extended its heartfelt congratulations to the Director of Tourism Kashmir for his commendable decision to eliminate the requirement of airport arrival passes for tourists arriving at Srinagar airport. TAAI said that this progressive move is set to revolutionize the arrival process, streamlining procedures, and enhancing the overall tourism experience in the region.

TAAI JK Chapter held a day-long workshop on Goods and Services Tax (GST) in Srinagar on Monday. Additional Commissioner Sales Tax Department Shakeel Maqbool (ICAS) was the keynote speaker who along with his team of officers provided detailed information to the travel agents and tour operators on GST. The Adl Commissioner while appreciating the organisers for holding the workshop urged the participants to be responsible taxpayers and collaborate with the sales tax department. He said that the government doesn't want to be





in an enforcement mode and crackdown on tax evaders but handhold the responsible businessmen.

Kashmir hosted a major Tourism Conference to Spotlight Regional Development in which Madam Jyoti Mayal, President TAAI, Ather Yameen Narwari Chapter Chairman, Sameer Baktoo Secretary, Irshad Hazare Treasurer and other senior members of TAAI JK Chapter participated and highlighted the Tourism-related issues under the theme "Tourism Beyond G20: Unveiling Jammu and Kashmir's Tourism Treasures." The Kashmir International Conference Centre (KICC), Srinagar was the venue for a significant gathering on April 13, 2024. This daylong conference was a collaborative effort between the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), J&K Tourism Committee (JKTC), and various tourism and hospitality associations of Jammu and Kashmir. The conference underscored a stark contrast between the previous 35 years of instability in Jammu and Kashmir and the burgeoning tourist influx in 2023 and 2024, marking a notable revival of the state's tourism industry.

TAAI JK CHAPTER with Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq along with Chapter Chairman Ather Yameen Narwari and senior members of TAAI Nasir Shah Noor Mohammed Shangloo Showket Pakhtoon Mir Anwar and Haseeb Khan attended ATM DUBAI and showcase Kashmir as an upcoming Inbound and Experiential Destination. Entire delegates praised the joint efforts of the members of the JK TAAI Chapter and assured full support to promote Kashmir as a premier tourist destination.

TAAI JK has raised the bar of a class of deliverance and commitment towards the Travel & Tourism industry. The first-of-its-kind partnership with the Ministry of Tourism was eloquently expressed and appreciated by MoT officials & the Senior Economic advisor from the dias. Representations from States of J&K Karnataka MP UP and the presence of the Hon. Tourism Minister of Goa truly showed their commitment towards TAAI, besides the Indian Airlines- Air India & Indigo

TAAI – Eastern Region

Chairman, Manav Soni

In the dynamic world of aviation, staying updated with the latest trends, technologies, and strategies is crucial for success. Recognizing this need, the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) Eastern Region recently organized an Airline Symposium aimed at bringing together key stakeholders in the airline industry. This symposium served as a platform for insightful discussions, networking opportunities, and exploring new horizons in the ever-evolving aviation landscape. The Airline Symposium which was hosted by The Park hotel Kolkata, witnessed the participation of airline representatives, travel agents, industry experts, government officials, media and aviation enthusiasts. The agenda for the symposium was meticulously crafted to cover a wide array of topics pertinent to the airline industry, ranging from market trends and passenger experience to sustainability initiatives and technological innovations. AAI was represented by the Airport Director C. Pattabhi and he gave a detailed presentation about Kolkata







Airport. Enhancing passenger experience, improving passenger experience emerged as a focal point of discussion, with experts highlighting the importance of personalised services, seamless connectivity, and innovative amenities. Airlines shared their strategies for enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty in an increasingly competitive market.

The Airline Symposium organised by TAAI Eastern Region served as a catalyst for collaboration, innovation, and growth within the aviation industry. By bringing together diverse stakeholders and fostering meaningful discussions, the symposium contributed to the collective effort of shaping a more resilient, sustainable, and passenger-centric aviation sector in the Eastern Region. As participants departed with new insights and valuable connections, they were poised to navigate the evolving landscape of air travel with confidence and adaptability.



TAAI Rajasthan Chapter

Manoj Kumar Sogani, Chairman

TAAI Rajasthan Chapter's tenth meeting and a FAM tour was organised on March 16-17, 2024 at a very different destination named Eco Dera Chandsen Resort. The resort not only hosted us but they also arranged horse riding, nature walks and farming tours. Members enjoyed this very unique experience with regular business activities. Rajasthan Chapter hosted a warm reception for their members on the Republic Day and on the occasion of Holi, they planned a colourful gala evening with colour, dinner and cultural entertainment at a very nice banquet.

Sariska FAM tour was organised for Rajasthan chapter members. In moments of laughter and camaraderie, the talented team of TAAI men captured enjoying each other's company in a FAM tour organised by Rajasthan Chapter. Their infectious laughter and shared joy illuminated the place reflecting the warmth of their friendship and the bonds forged in the world of Travel Trade. Pictures are a delightful reminder of the lighter moments shared amidst the hustle and bustle of visa appointments, air tickets, hotel bookings, GST, TDS, TCS outstanding, staff shuffle, bad debt, IATA, airlines and many more.



TAAI Southern Region

Inputs by Devaki Thiyagarajan, Chairperson





Etihad Airways sponsored Chennai Super Kings Team in IPL Match. B2B Incredible India Event hosted by TAAI was attended by Vinay Malhotra, Indigo, Head of Global Sales and Mr. Mayal.

The Trade Colleagues met Ms. Hoor Al Khaja - Senior Vice President International Operations DET.

Participated in the B2B Incredible India Evening in Dubai. Had a meeting with Doraisamy Venkateshwaran, The Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, with respect to the increase in Visa Application fees and an Official letter was sent as discussed in their meeting.

Devaki T met Oliver Ballhatchet, British High Commissioner, Chennai at the Visit Britain Workshop.

TAAI South Gujarat Chapter

Inputs by Malcom T Pandol, Chairman

TAAI South Gujarat Chapter had a meeting which was sponsored by Deltin Hotel Daman at Daman. The members from Surat, Navsari, Vadodara attended the meeting. They discussed various problems such as dela y in the date for getting U S .GST and TVS were also discussed.





TAAI Western Region

Inputs by Rajesh Poddar, Chairman

TAAI Western Region members had a meeting with the Regional Director MoT, Sagnik Chowdhury, the new regional Director for the Western Region. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss how India Tourism and TAAI can work together more closely in the Western region to support tourism.

They also had a meeting with Debojo Maharshi, Chief Business Officer for SpiceJet. During the Western Region meeting, Regional Director MoT Sagnik Chowdhury and his team gave a presentation to the members on how to register for the MoT classification under Travel Agent / Tour operator category. A workshop cum handholding was conducted during the Western Region meeting of members on April17, 2024





TAAI Participates at J&K Tourism Conclave

Mr. Anoop Kanuga, as Chairman Tourism Council represented TAAI at the J&K Tourism Conclave held on June 26 - 27 at SKICC Srinagar. He was a panelist on the session 'Challenges & Opportunities - J&K Tourism Way Forward, which was moderated by G20 Sherpa Shri Amitabh Kant. Other esteemed dignitaries on the panel included Mr. Atal Dulloo Chief Secretary J&K, Ms. Yasha Mudgal - Commissioner Secretary to Govt Tourism Dept and Mr. Raja Yaqoob, Director Tourism, Kashmir.





Inputs By Dr. P. Murugesan, Chairman Legal & Grievance Council., TAAI Managing Committee Member

Dr. P Murugesan met the Malaysian Counsel General at his official residence for a get together and dinner meeting. He was invited by the DG -India Tourism for the Annual Day celebration of IHM , Chennai along with the Regional Director of ITC Hotels and other dignitaries. This event took place on April 05, 2024. On May 07,2024 he met the newly posted Director of Tourism and Managing Director of TTDC of Tamilnadu has Tourism - Thiru C. Samayamoorthy, IAS.







Resilience in tourism



Resilience in tourism has been critical in rebuilding the industry and ensuring its long-term sustainability. Here are some key strategies which were and could be taken into consideration–

Anjani Dhauka

Flexibility in Booking and Cancellation Policies – Providing flexible booking and cancellation policies can help reassure travellers and encourage bookings by offering peace of mind amid uncertain situations.

Diversification of Offerings – Tourism businesses should consider diversifying their offerings to cater to changing traveller preferences. This might involve promoting outdoor activities, eco-tourism, or wellness retreats, which have seen increased demand during the past few years.

Collaboration and Partnerships – Collaboration among tourism stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and businesses, is crucial for collective recovery efforts. This might involve joint marketing campaigns, sharing resources, or developing sustainable tourism initiatives.

Sustainability and Resilience - Building resilience into tourism infrastructure involves considering environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This includes minimizing the industry's carbon footprint, supporting local communities, and diversifying revenue streams to withstand future shocks.

Destination Management – Effective destination management is essential for balancing the needs of tourists with those of local residents and preserving the cultural and natural heritage of destinations. This might involve implementing carrying capacity limits, promoting responsible tourism practices, and addressing over tourism.

Training and Capacity Building – Investing in training and capacity building for tourism professionals is essential for ensuring quality service and maintaining destination competitiveness. This could include providing training on health and safety protocols, customer service, and sustainable tourism practices.

Market Research and Targeting – Conducting market research to understand changing traveller preferences and behaviours can help tourism businesses tailor their offerings and marketing strategies accordingly. This might involve targeting specific demographics or niche markets that are more resilient to disruptions.

By implementing these strategies and considerations we would be building greater resilience to future challenges.

(Anjani Dhauka is Hon. Secretary, TAAI Eastern Region)

SUMMER 2024
NEW DESTINATIONS UNVEILED

Travel is witnessing unprecedented growth like never before. Indian travellers have been exploring various local as well as international destinations. Popular European destinations such as Switzerland continue to remain a favourite among Indian travellers but there have been some new relatively unexplored destinations that are catching the attention of travellers. We spoke to TAAI members across India to gain insights into how the Bookings Business has been and which destinations have remained most popular during this period. They also shared information on the shift in booking trends and surprise new entrants becoming the most sought-after new destinations.

Shreya Shimpi



IRSHAD MEHDI
Chairman-TAAI-Nagpur Chapter

This summer season was exceptional. Some of the destinations were in high demand this summer. Topping the chart was Baku, Azerbaijan, followed by Bali, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and regular destinations like Dubai and nearby countries.

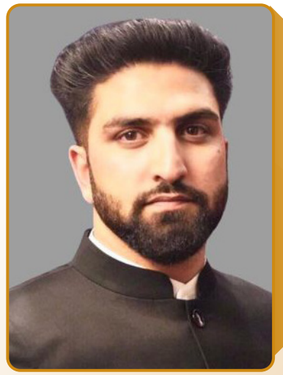
Of course, Europe has its market share and a lot of people whom we call mature travellers explored options like Iceland, Scandinavian countries and we have witnessed the demand for South American countries, especially Argentina covering places like San Carlos the Bari Loche, (Switzerland of South America), Puerto Mont, Punta Arenas these are extremely beautiful places to be visited once in a lifetime for sure.

KULVINDER SINGH KOHLI
MC Member TAAI National Managing Committee



As witnessed last year, this year also showed a tremendous increase in both domestic tourism as well as travel to neighbouring countries. A special mention of tourism to Kashmir which unluckily resulted in a huge jump in the hotel and airline rates, which I feel the government needs to address somehow the other. Travel to European countries was hindered due to delayed Visas and very high airfares. Travel to the USA and Canada was mainly for returning/visiting families and students. The impact of Elections hindered a little bit of travel. Now that the same has been successfully conducted, the coming months will see a further increase in tourism, especially domestic travel.

SAMEER BAKTOO
Hon. Secretary - TAAI J &K CHAPTER



This season has witnessed a robust demand, with a significant uptick in both domestic and international bookings. Gulmarg and Pahalgam have continued to be the top favourites, attracting travellers for their stunning landscapes and adventure activities. Interestingly, there has been a surge in interest in lesser-known destinations like Yusmarg and Doodhpathri, which offer serene environments and picturesque beauty away from the crowds. A notable surprise this year has been the increasing popularity of Gurez Valley. Known for its breathtaking vistas and vibrant cultural heritage, it has quickly climbed the ranks as a sought-after destination. Additionally, eco-tourism spots and luxury houseboat stays in Srinagar have seen a remarkable rise in popularity, reflecting a growing trend towards unique and sustainable travel experiences.

As we enjoy these beautiful destinations, we must adopt responsible tourist practices to preserve them for future generations. This includes minimizing waste, respecting local cultures, and supporting sustainable development. By doing so, we can ensure that the natural beauty and cultural richness of Kashmir remain intact for years to come.

YAZDI MARKER
Hon. Secretary - TAAI Central and South Maharashtra Chapter

Overall Domestic Travel Trends in Summer 2024.

- Increased Domestic Tourism: With ongoing international travel complexities and costs, more Indians prefer exploring domestic destinations.
- Sustainable and Eco-friendly Travel: There is a growing awareness, especially amongst the urban youth for sustainable travel options. Eco-friendly resorts and homestays are in higher demand.
- Last-Minute and Short Trips: Focused work-life balance has led to an increase in last-minute bookings and shorter, frequent trips.

Factors influencing these trends:

Improved Connectivity: Enhanced road, rail, and air connectivity to various parts of India has made travel more accessible.

Travel Infrastructure: The development of new hotels, resorts, and homestays in offbeat locations is encouraging exploration.

Social Media Influence: Travel influencers and social media posts are significantly impacting destination popularity, with more travellers seeking authentic reviews.

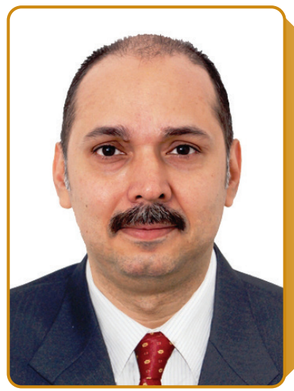
Cultural, Food and Festival Tourism: Local festivals, Food and cultural events are major attractions, drawing domestic tourists to experience unique traditions.

The Incredible India story is not just for international tourists, but also for our growing domestic explorers.

The vibrant travel landscape in India has much to offer all the customer segments by capturing their imagination with meaningful engagement.



MANAV SONI
Chairman- TAAI Eastern Region



Domestic travel within India remains a significant component of the bookings business, especially during this summer. Popular destinations such as Goa, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand are perennial favourites among Indian travellers due to their diverse landscapes, cultural heritage, and recreational activities. Hill stations in the northern and southern parts of India, such as Shimla, Manali, Ooty, Munnar, and Darjeeling, typically are experiencing an influx of tourists who are seeking respite from the summer heat. Coastal destinations like Goa, Kerala (Kovalam, Varkala), Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep attract travellers looking for beach holidays, water sports, and relaxation. Cities with rich historical and cultural significance like Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, Udaipur, and Mysore remain popular among travellers interested in heritage tourism.

There's a growing trend of travellers seeking offbeat and less crowded destinations to escape the tourist crowds. Places like Tirthan Valley (Himachal Pradesh), Coorg (Karnataka), Ziro Valley (Arunachal Pradesh), Spiti Valley (Himachal Pradesh), and Gokarna (Karnataka) have been gaining popularity among adventurous travellers and backpackers. With a heightened focus on health and wellness, destinations offering yoga retreats, Ayurvedic treatments, and spa resorts are attracting travellers seeking rejuvenation and relaxation. Rishikesh, Kerala (for Ayurveda), and Goa (for wellness retreats) are notable examples.

New destinations may emerge due to infrastructure development, government initiatives and changing travel preferences. For example, places like Kutch (Gujarat), Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Khajjiar (Himachal Pradesh), and Panchgani (Maharashtra) have gained attention for their scenic beauty and unique experiences.

International Destinations for Travellers from India:

Dubai consistently remains a popular destination for travellers from India due to its proximity, world-class attractions, shopping festivals, and family-friendly entertainment options.

With its beautiful beaches, vibrant street life, rich cultural heritage, and affordability, Thailand is a perennial favourite among Indian travellers, especially during the summer months.

Known for its cleanliness, modern infrastructure, diverse culinary scene, and family-friendly attractions, Singapore attracts Indian travellers seeking a blend of urban sophistication and natural beauty.

The Maldives is a sought-after destination for honeymooners, luxury travellers, and beach enthusiasts from India, offering pristine beaches, overwater bungalows, and unparalleled tranquillity. Bali's exotic charm, rich culture, lush landscapes, and diverse experiences make it a popular choice for Indian travellers seeking adventure, relaxation, and spiritual rejuvenation.

International Destinations to Watch Out for:

While it's challenging to predict with certainty which new international destinations have gained popularity among Indian travellers this summer, some emerging trends and factors to consider are/were:

Sri Lanka: With its proximity to India, diverse landscapes, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality, Sri Lanka has been gaining traction as a popular destination among Indian travellers in recent years.

Georgia: This Eurasian country has been garnering attention for its stunning landscapes, historic sites, delicious cuisine, and warm hospitality. Georgia offers a unique blend of Eastern European and Asian influences, making it an attractive destination for Indian travellers seeking offbeat experiences.

Vietnam: Vietnam's natural beauty, rich history, diverse culture, and delicious street food make it an intriguing destination for Indian travellers looking to explore Southeast Asia beyond their usual favourites.

Kenya: Known for its spectacular wildlife safaris, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture, Kenya offers a memorable experience for adventure seekers and nature enthusiasts from India.

Armenia: This lesser-known destination in the Caucasus region has been gaining popularity for its ancient monasteries, scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. Armenia's rich history and stunning landscapes make it an attractive option for Indian travellers seeking unique experiences.

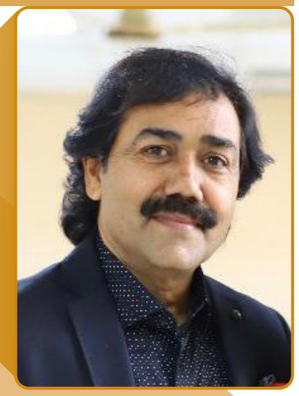
In totality, the summer bookings have been healthy and the future of tourism is bright.

MARIYAMMA JOSE
Chairperson-TAAI-Kerala Chapter



The summer of 2024 was a very busy season for holidaymakers and MICE. There was a surge of traffic for destinations like Kerala, Kashmir and Rajasthan. On the international front, there was a drop in traffic to Maldives and an increase in Sri Lanka, for obvious reasons. One of the problems faced by the travel service agencies is the cancellation of flights disrupting the tour plans ending up in loss of money, complaints and litigations. It is time we strongly urge the Government of India to advise the General insurance companies to introduce Insurance risk coverage for holiday packages and holiday packages. This will make the traveller feel secure.

MANOJ KUMAR SOGANI
Chairman- TAAI-Rajasthan Chapter



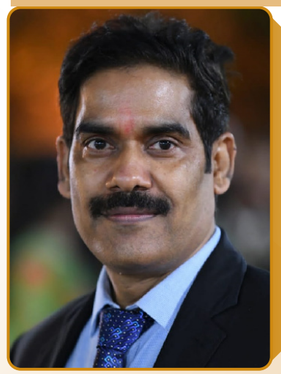
God is so kind. After COVID-19, this is the year where we are witnessing a new height, particularly in outbound traffic. This summer we are handling more international passengers than ever. Some new hot-selling destinations are Vietnam, Baku and Almaty. The number of travellers going to Sri Lanka is increasing after our annual congress was held in Colombo in 2023. Dubai still remains a favourite among travellers. New queries for Saudi are surprisingly increasing day by day. Thailand in Far East remains at the top with Singapore following Malaysia. Cruise business is also going good. Jaipur will get more connections to Europe .Some points in the States with a direct flight of Etihad will be starting this week only. TAAI has a Midas touch. Wherever TAAI is involved either in their roadshows or conventions we have set such trends, and people follow. Schengen visa appointments are a big issue while handling Europe groups. Travelling to Europe entirely depends on appointment. Some issues of TCS and GST need to be discussed and resolved. The new Tourism Minister is from Rajasthan, so we hope that there is more focus on developing the tourism industry.

SAINATH DHARWATKAR
Chairman –TAAI -Goa Chapter



Overall the booking business during summer 2024 has been satisfying. Domestic tourism has done well. Thanks to the efforts of the Ministry of Tourism and the State Tourism Departments for the efforts in giving publicity showcasing the treasures that India has to offer. Goa and Kashmir to name a few have been all-time favourites. We are also happy that Fly91 has started direct flights from Goa to Agatti which will soon pick up as a favourite destination having better and convenient connectivity. For destinations outside India, Europe, UAE, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Nepal continue to be popular. However, the travellers have also given preference towards countries such as Vietnam, Philippines, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, etc

PRADEEP KUMAR RAI
Hon. Secretary - TAAI UP & UK Chapter



Summer 2024 has shown a strong resurgence in travel bookings, reflecting a robust recovery in the tourism industry. Traditional destinations like Paris, Bali, and New York have maintained their popularity due to their timeless appeal and diverse attractions. However, we have also seen some surprising new entrants gaining traction. Notably, Baku, Azerbaijan, has emerged as a trending destination, captivating travellers with its rich cultural heritage and modern architectural marvels. Additionally, Tbilisi in Georgia has attracted attention for its unique blend of history, vibrant culture, and picturesque landscapes.

The shift towards exploring less crowded, off-the-beaten-path locations is evident, driven by travellers' desire for novel experiences and sustainable tourism practices. This trend has brought previously overlooked destinations into the spotlight, offering fresh opportunities for the travel industry.

HEMENDRA SINGH JADON
Chairman - TAAI - MP & CG Chapter



The overall business has been good and it has been growing post-Covid. We have seen an increase of around 10-15% in the overall bookings as compared to last year. People have started travelling to both domestic as well as international destinations. Europe remains an all-time favourite, but there are other destinations like Vietnam, Bali, Dubai and Almaty which are being opted by travellers. In India, destinations such as Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Uttaranchal, North-East are among the most sought-after destinations. There has been a surge in the number of travellers opting for Georgia and Baku.

ANURAG AGARWAL
Hon. Secretary - TAAI-NR



The season started with a bang with traditional long-haul destinations like the UK, Europe, US remaining all-time favourites. The fast processing of Schengen and UK visas helped raise the numbers for these countries.
Bookings to short-haul CIS countries Azerbaijan and Kazakistan have seen good numbers The new destination of Georgia is the new upcoming destination with lots of tourists this year. Destinations such as Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam have also seen some high numbers."

DEVAKI THIYAGARAJAN
Chairperson - TAAI -Southern Region



A significant growth in Outbound Tourism from India reflects the expanding horizons of our people. An increase in the frequency of flights by all airlines, E-Visa facilities / Visa on Arrival/ Free Visas have been inspiring more tourists to explore new international destinations.
Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Kazakhstan are the most popular destinations for Budget Tourists, ensuring a satisfying and memorable travel experience.
South Korea is becoming an increasingly popular new destination influenced by the global popularity of Korean dramas, K-pop music, and Korean culture among Indian youth though there are challenges like language in remote regions and vegetarian food.

MALCOM PANDOL
Chairman - TAAI-South Gujarat Chapter



Europe has been the most sought-after travel destination with Switzerland remaining a favourite among the travellers. Over the last two years, Azerbaijan has been gaining a lot of popularity. Every month nearly 200-300 travellers are travelling to Azerbaijan through bookings made with travel agents all across Surat. Destinations such as Georgia and Tbilisi have also been gaining the attention of Indian travellers but the main problem is getting a visa, especially for Georgia.

RAJESH PODDAR
Chairman - TAAI - Western Region



Summer 2024 has been an overall good season and we have seen an increase in business. Destinations like Europe have been popular, especially Italy, Greece Spain, Swiss & France. Not to forget the UK & Turkey. New Entrants have been the CIS countries like Uzbekistan, Georgia and Kazakhstan, I think this is due to direct flights from India and the biggest advantage is that visas are not an issue for Uzbek & Kazak especially.



SalamAir launches new Delhi-Muscat route starting July 2

SalamAir has announced the launch of its latest destination in India – Delhi (DEL). Starting July 2, 2024, SalamAir will operate two weekly flights on Tuesdays and Thursdays to the Indian capital. The introduction of flights to Delhi marks a significant milestone for SalamAir as the airline continues to expand its network to meet the growing demand for affordable and convenient travel options to the Sultanate.



Korea Tourism Organization concludes Roadshow in Kochi

The Korea Tourism Organization successfully concluded its roadshow in Kochi, Kerala on June 6, 2024. This event, aimed at educating travel agents about the myriad experiences Korea has to offer, was marked by insightful presentations, engaging discussions, and a great turnout of participants. The Kochi roadshow comes on heels of its events in Mumbai and Bengaluru earlier this year.

Moscow Tourism Committee launches new Moscow City training program

The Moscow City Tourism Committee has launched a new training program aimed at boosting business travel from India. This initiative is a part of Moscow MICE Ambassadors online certification project to strengthen ties between Moscow and India and to promote the Russian capital as a premier host city for MICE events. It is scheduled to unfold from June 3 to November 1, 2024.





LOT Polish Airlines adds Innsbruck to its global network

LOT Polish Airlines will operate flights between Warsaw and Innsbruck from 29 November 2024 to 28 March 2025. The flights to Innsbruck will be operated each Friday. Passengers will travel on Boeing 737 aircraft, taking off from Warsaw Airport at 10:25h. The return flight from Innsbruck is scheduled for Friday afternoon – at 13:35h local time.



Cheval Collection to reopen Chelsea Property

Cheval Collection has announced the reopening of Cheval Phoenix House on July 4. 2024 after undergoing a full-scale 15-month-long refurbishment, involving a total reconfiguration of all apartments, extensive upgrades and complete modernisation. The property boasts a selection of 34 open plan, one- and two-bedroom apartments available to book for any length of stay.

Brij Hotels announces BRIJ Atmanya at Bhowali, Nainital

BRIJ Atmanya at Bhowali, located 5,000 feet above sea level, is a 25-minute drive from Bhimtal, Naukuchiatal and the Naini Lake. The property offers its guests 12 luxury rooms and suites handcrafted to reflect the aesthetics and cultural heritage of the Kumaon region. Open terraces, lush gardens, and expansive decks provide the perfect setting for relaxation.





IndiGo introduces direct flights connecting Durgapur to Bhubaneswar, Bagdogra, and Guwahati

IndiGo has announced new routes connecting Durgapur with the cities of Bhubaneswar, Bagdogra, and Guwahati, starting from August 30, 2024. Previously, Durgapur had direct connectivity with metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. With new flights to Bhubaneswar, Bagdogra, and Guwahati, IndiGo will now operate 42 weekly flights from the city of Durgapur.



Virgin Atlantic to connect Toronto and London Heathrow

Virgin Atlantic is launching a new direct route between Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ) and London Heathrow (LHR), marking the airline's expansion in North America and into Canada's financial hub. The daily service will launch on 30 March 30, 2025 and will operate a mix of its signature aircraft on the route including the A330-900neo.



Sarovar Hotels inaugurates Delite Sarovar Portico, Faridabad

Sarovar Hotels, in partnership with Delite Aravali View, has announced the grand opening of Delite Sarovar Portico in Faridabad, Haryana. The hotel offers 74 thoughtfully designed rooms, including Executive & Premium Rooms and Suites along with versatile event spaces, including the Royal Hall, Imperial I and II, and the Classic Hall, ideal for hosting various events up to 600 guests.

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts unveils Ramada by Wyndham, Gorakhpur

Wyndham Hotels & Resorts has announced the opening of Ramada by Wyndham Gorakhpur Gorakhnath Mandir Road, marking its 59th hotel in India and 7th hotel in Uttar Pradesh state. The new hotel, featuring 57 keys, celebrates distinctive style and spirit. The hotel is equipped with 6,400 sq. ft. of events space that accommodates up to 350 conference guests or 500 banquet guests.





Air India links Vijayawada with Mumbai

Air India has launched a direct daily service between Vijayawada and Mumbai enhancing their network connectivity in Andhra Pradesh. Operated by an A320 family of single-aisle aircraft, flight AI598 will take off from Mumbai at 1555 hrs to arrive in Vijayawada at 1745 hrs. The return flight AI599 will depart Vijayawada at 1940 hrs to land in Mumbai at 2100 hrs.



IndiGo announces direct flights from Bengaluru to Jabalpur and Nashik

IndiGo has unveiled new routes that will provide direct connectivity between Bengaluru-Jabalpur and Bengaluru-Nashik. Commencing from September 01, 2024, the Bengaluru-Jabalpur flights will operate four times a week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, while the Bengaluru-Nashik flights will commence from September 10, 2024 and will run daily.



IndiGo reinstates direct connectivity between Mumbai and Hubli

IndiGo has announced the reinstatement of daily direct flights between Mumbai and Hubli. These direct flights are scheduled to recommence from July 15, 2024. With the reintroduction of 7 weekly non-stop flights between these cities, IndiGo aims to cater to both, business and leisure travellers, strengthening trade and tourism between Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Singapore Tourism Board to hold multi-city B2B roadshow in India

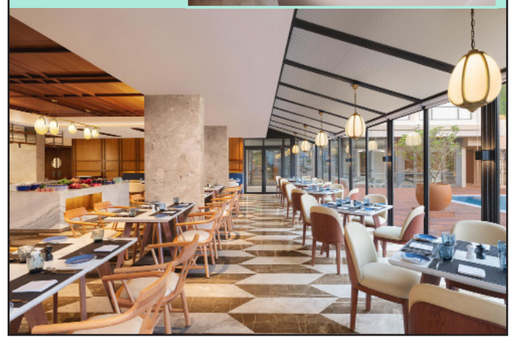
Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is set to organise a multi-city B2B roadshow in Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad this July. Titled 'Singapore Tourism Board Roadshow 2024. Holidays Made in Singapore', the event will feature 50 exhibitors representing hotels, attractions, airline, cruise lines and DMCs. Notably, seven of these exhibitors are participating for the first time.



Courtyard By Marriott debuts in Goa

Courtyard by Marriott has announced the opening of Courtyard by Marriott Goa Colva, marking the debut of the Courtyard by Marriott brand in the state. Strategically located in one of the most popular parts of Goa, known for its white sand beaches, susegad lifestyle and Indo-Portuguese architecture, this 91-room hotel is an embodiment of the all things Goan.







India ranks 2nd in tourist arrivals to the USA between Jan - May

As per United States NTTO, India has emerged as the second-largest travel source market to the US for the period January to May 2024. In May 2024, a remarkable 263,150 passengers travelled from India to the United States signifying a nearly 32% increase from the 199,364 arrivals in May 2023. For arrivals in the USA between January - May 2024, India maintains its strong second position.



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