

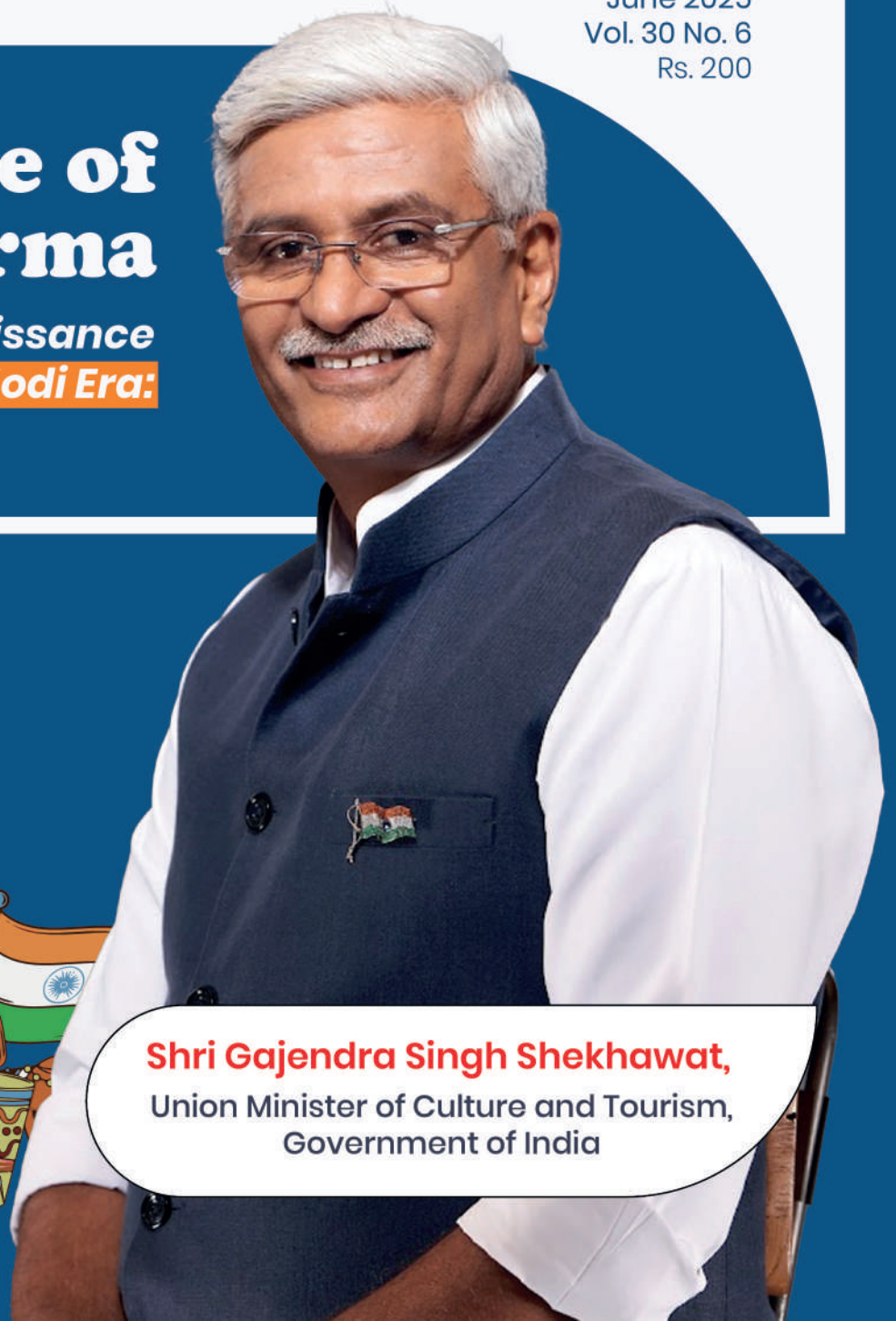
India's Leading International Travel Magazine

travel mail

June 2025
Vol. 30 No. 6
Rs. 200

A Decade of Dharma

*Cultural Renaissance
in the **Modi Era:***



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
Union Minister of Culture and Tourism,
Government of India





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Editors note

Dear Reader,

There's something magical this time of year. The world feels more alive with packed suitcases and open maps as summer unfolds. Whether it's a first-time traveller, a family planning a long-awaited trip, or a solo traveller planning best spots to visit, June has always carried the spirit of movement and meaning.

This month, Travel Mail reflects not just movement, but momentum in 2025. From the Indian Government's new vision for MICE tourism and Madhya Pradesh's cinematic charm to the spirited celebration of Carnival in Jamaica and the cultural resonance of Korea through Hina Khan's appointment, we witness how the world is rediscovering joy, with open arms and an open minds.

We've had the privilege of speaking to people who live and breathe this industry those who craft experiences, open doors to hidden worlds, and constantly reimagine what travel can be. Their voices from Israel to Jordan and beyond, are not just informative they're deeply personal, often rooted in culture, passion, and purpose. They remind us that behind every destination is a story, and behind every story is someone who believes the world should see it.

This summer, let's travel with open eyes, open hearts, and a little more wonder.

Happy Reading!

Warm Regards,
Ajay Gupta
Managing Editor – Travel Mail

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Published by:

MMG Publications

Address: 199, CM-1, Office Complex, Jhandewalan, New Delhi - 110055

Editor: Ajay Gupta

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India all set to emerge as Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) capital of the world – Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

About 700 leading industry players and decision maker from the exhibition sector attends

“The new segments of tourism are getting developed, in which MICE tourism is the most important and is the fastest growing segment in the country. The exhibition and conference infrastructure we see across the nation including Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Jaipur and even small cities post G20 meet indicates that India is standing at the threshold of strong possibilities for this sector,” said **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union minister of Culture and Tourism**, while inaugurating a Two-day Seminar on India: The land of Exponential Growth organised by the Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA), the apex national body of exhibition industry in the country.

“The government and the private exhibition industry has to work together to make India a centre of MICE tourism. Several events which are happening globally can be calendarized and brought here in India. Besides being a destination India, the country is also becoming a big Exhibition and conference hub with planned expansion in road, aviation and railway sectors along with expansion of the conference and exhibition sector, the country has a great future for economic growth,” **Shekhawat said**.

“After 2014, India has shown a tremendous growth curve in infrastructure given the boom in infrastructure, be it the construction of roads over 1,50,000 km, new railway stations, semi high-speed trains, inland waterways and more than 150 operational airports. All of these have contributed to India’s prowess with regards to the MICE events (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions). The confidence also built following India’s hosting of G20 nations, the entire world is looking at India in awe and curiosity. In times to come, India will emerge as the MICE capital of the world.” Said Mr **Shekhawat**.



“The 14th edition, the IEIA Open Seminar is expected to attract over 700 leading industry players at decision maker levels including leading Exhibition/ Event Organisers, heads of various trade bodies, sectoral associations and key govt. bodies. India is the fastest growing exhibition market in the world and has grown at 40% post Covid. The Exhibition Industry’s contribution to the Indian economy is Rs. 50,000 crores. Business generated through exhibitions is Rs. 300,000 crores.” **Said Mr Dhawan**.

“The Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE). refers to a specialized segment of the tourism and hospitality industry focused on organizing and hosting business events. We urge the govt to announce 1st October as the National MICE Day as further boosting the morale of the industry.” Said Mr Dhawan.



MICE is also known as the event industry. Over the past decades, the MICE industry has been recognized as a significant market segment and an important contributor to national economies. It not only gives a boost to the economy in the form of income generation, but creates huge employment opportunities in related hospitality services providing sectors like accommodation, food and beverage, convention services, transportation, tourism and entertainment.

Those present on the occasion included Mr Premjeet Lal ED, ITPO, Mr Rakesh Kumar, MD, India Expo mart, Mr Jagdish Patanakar Hon Secretary IEIA, and Mr Ravinder Sethi, vice president, IEIA



“The IEIA Open Seminar and Exhibition Services Expo is the annual international conclave of the Indian Exhibition Industry attended by the captains of the industry from all regions of the country and overseas. The event acts as one of its kind meaningful platforms for business networking, knowledge exchange, and discussions on the emerging trends shaping our industry’s future.” **Said Mr Sooraj Dhawan, President. Indian Exhibition Industry Association (IEIA)**.

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A Decade of Dharma

Cultural Renaissance in the Modi Era

In January 2024, as the sun rose over the holy city of Ayodhya, a prayer whispered for centuries finally found its voice. The Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ram in his Ram Mandir was not just a religious milestone—it was a moment of civilizational redemption. After centuries of invasion, colonial distortion, and political delay, the temple stood tall—etched in sandstone, echoing with mantras, and pulsing with history. It wasn't just about architecture; it was about the healing of a wounded soul. The return of Shri Ram to his birthplace rekindled the spirit of a nation that had long carried the silence of exile in its heart.

A few months prior, another symbol of India's ancient spirit quietly returned to its rightful place. During the inauguration of the new Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi installed the Sengol—a sacred scepter presented to Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 by Tamil Adheenams to mark the dharmic transfer of power. For decades, it had been forgotten, mislabeled, and dismissed as a walking stick. Its restoration was not just an act of remembrance—it was a powerful declaration that India would no longer view itself through borrowed eyes. The Sengol represented rule anchored in righteousness, not relics of empire—a decisive embrace of India's own statecraft and spiritual traditions, long overlooked in a post-colonial order.

Together, these moments signaled a deeper cultural resurgence—a civilisational stirring that would unfold across eleven transformative years.

From the outset in 2014, it was clear that under the Modi Government, culture would no longer be ornamental—it would be foundational. International Yoga Day, first observed in 2015, saw millions across the globe celebrate an ancient Indian practice that fuses body, mind, and spirit. Yoga was not just a wellness routine—it became India's greatest cultural export of the past few years.

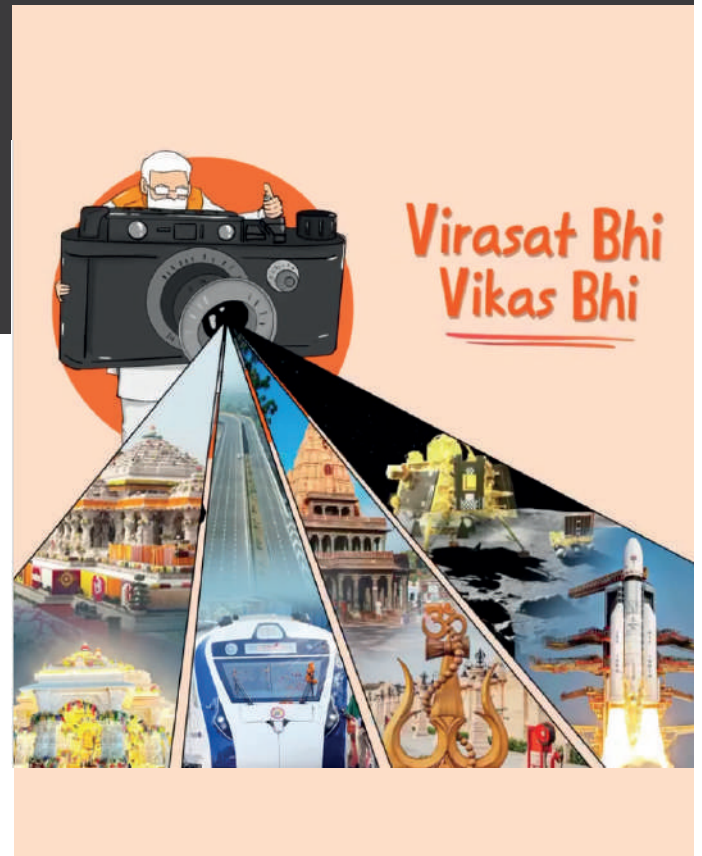
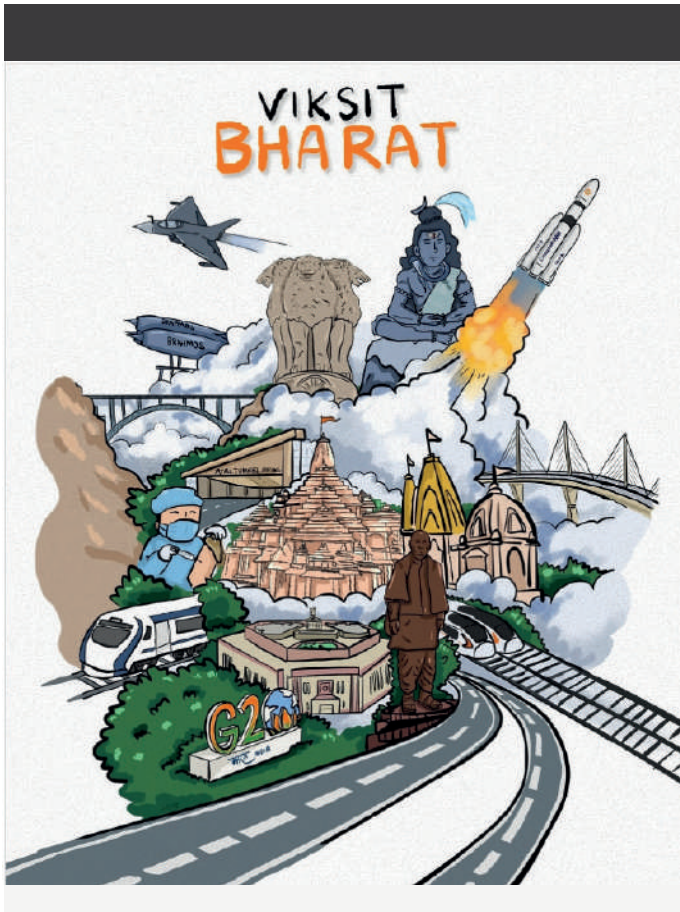
Revival of traditional knowledge systems was given institutional force through the Ministry of AYUSH, which elevated Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy to national and global platforms. In parallel, the government launched missions to preserve classical languages like Sanskrit, Tamil, Pali and Prakrit promote the digitization of manuscripts, and support endangered folk arts and crafts under schemes like USTAD and Hamari Dharohar.



Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat,
Union Minister of Culture and Tourism,
Government of India

India's monuments too began to breathe with renewed vitality. The unveiling of the Statue of Unity in 2018 was not just about scale—it was about reclaiming narrative. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, long overshadowed, was placed at the forefront of national memory. The renaming of Rajpath to Kartavya Path symbolized a decisive shift—from colonial symbolism to native accountability.

Perhaps no diplomatic engagement illustrated this shift better than the 2019 informal summit between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. Far from the corridors of Delhi, the ancient port city—once a thriving center of the Pallava dynasty and Indo-Chinese maritime links—became the backdrop for a conversation between two civilizations. As the leaders walked amid rock-cut temples and stone chariots, India presented not just geography, but history; not just protocol, but legacy. It was soft power at its subtlest and strongest.



This cultural ethos flowed into India’s global diplomacy in other ways too. PM Modi’s state gifts to world leaders—ranging from Pattachitra paintings to lacquered toys for children—carried with them stories of India’s artisans and timeless traditions.

The G-20 presidency in 2023 was another cultural milestone. Far from being confined to Delhi’s diplomatic halls, the summit became a pan-India celebration of cultural identity. From tribal art displays to classical performances, India showcased not just its policy depth, but its soul. Every delegation was immersed in the colors, cuisine, crafts, and consciousness of Bharat. The message was clear: India is not a civilisation in past tense—it is alive, dynamic, and confidently global.

During these years, over 600 stolen artefacts—including idols, sculptures, and manuscripts—were brought back from foreign museums and collectors. Each return was a restoration not just of art, but of honour. Similarly, Veer Bal Diwas was instituted to remember the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh’s sons, while Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas brought tribal freedom fighters into national focus.

Even the pandemic did not dim the cultural flame. Through virtual concerts, digital museum tours, and “Mann Ki Baat”, the Prime Minister ensured that art, stories, and cultural pride continued to thrive within the solitude of lockdowns.

All of this converged into the campaign slogan: “Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi”—a call that economic growth must walk hand in hand with cultural pride. Under the Modi Government, this slogan wasn’t mere rhetoric. It defined a new vision where GDP growth, digital infrastructure, and defense modernization were inseparable from temple restoration, tribal pride, and civilizational storytelling.

India today no longer tiptoes around its identity. It strides forward—unapologetically rooted and confidently modern. Cultural nationalism, once dismissed as regressive, has emerged as the binding force of progress. In the BJP’s ideological compass, culture is not an accessory—it is the axis.

In these eleven years, the Modi era has not merely overseen a cultural policy—it has awakened a cultural consciousness. What began as restoration became resurgence. And what was once neglected as nostalgia has now become the nucleus of national identity.

The Ram Mandir and the Sengol will remain iconic symbols, but the deeper legacy lies in the collective realization that India’s future is brightest when it remembers where it came from. We are not just a country with a long history—we are a living civilization with a long memory. And in that memory, under the watch of dharma, India has found its voice again.

India's MICE Industry Emerged as a Major Economic Driver, Generating High-Quality Jobs

Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at 'Meet in India Conclave 2025'

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Tourism, Government of India, addressed the conclave and stated that India's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) Industry had emerged as a major economic driver, capable of generating high-quality jobs.

At the conclave, Shri Shekhawat remarked, *"India's MICE industry is rapidly emerging as a global powerhouse, fuelled by robust economic growth, world-class infrastructure, and strong government backing. States across the country are unlocking tourism opportunities in their unique ways – and now, it's time for India to position itself firmly on the global MICE map."*

"With iconic venues like Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, and Jio World Centre, and with MICE prioritised under the Incredible India campaign, we aim to elevate at least 10 Indian cities into the world's top MICE destinations. Guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, and with states like Rajasthan leading through legacy and innovation, India is poised to become the world's most admired tourism and events destination," the Tourism Minister added while highlighting the growing potential of the country in the MICE segment.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), organised the Meet in India Conclave in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on the sidelines of the 14th Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB).

More than 300 delegates and participants attended the event, including International MICE Companies / Operators, Domestic MICE Companies / Professional Conference organisers, Speakers, Foreign Tour Operators specialised in MICE invited for GITB, Secretaries from States / UTs, Media, Stakeholders from various Tourism and Hospitality Associations, Local Stakeholders (Hotels, DMCs, Associations, GITB, officials from States / UTs, exhibitors, etc.), etc.

Mr Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, emphasised that tourism and hospitality are among the world's largest employment generators. He highlighted the immense potential of the sector to create high-quality, skill-intensive jobs in India's youthful, ambitious economy. *"At NITI Aayog, we view MICE tourism not only as a promotional opportunity but as a development imperative,"* urging for more than just infrastructure development. He stressed the need for centre-state coordination, deregulation, and the breaking down of silos across ministries to achieve this vision. He added that India must move towards a comprehensive tourism experience that integrates events, cultural infrastructure, and global best practices to fully unlock its potential.

Mr Bery further emphasised, *"The vision laid out by Hon'ble PM during India's G20 presidency has opened new pathways. It is now up to states to build on this momentum. From deregulation to concert tourism, India has the opportunity to become a global hub for events and experiences."*





Highlighting Rajasthan as an emerging MICE destination, **Ms. Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan**, said, *"Rajasthan is not just a heritage destination – it is a vibrant, future-ready hub for MICE tourism. With state-of-the-art convention centres, seamless connectivity, digital infrastructure, and world-class hospitality, we are building a dynamic ecosystem that blends tradition with transformation."*

She further added, *"From our cultural richness to rural tourism circuits and new destination development, every part of Rajasthan is being equipped to host high-impact events. We believe in the power of strong public-private partnerships – from local artisans to luxury hoteliers, from grassroots logistics teams to global planners, everyone plays a role."*

Elucidating Rajasthan's commitment to MICE not as a short-term effort, but as a strategic priority to drive growth, innovation, and global visibility, the Deputy CM of Rajasthan said, *"Rajasthan is ready – not just to welcome conferences, but to offer an unforgettable, enriching experience."*

Smt. Pravati Parida, Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Odisha, said, *"Whether it's conferences or exhibitions, India is ready to welcome the world—and Odisha stands proudly among the leading states. From the spiritual serenity of Puri to the architectural marvel of Konark, our state offers not only robust infrastructure but also a rich cultural tapestry for all to experience"*.

The inaugural session was graced by senior dignitaries and over 300 leading industry stakeholders. The conclave showcased India's readiness to lead the global MICE landscape through strategic partnerships, infrastructure, and destination-driven promotion.

India's MICE market generated revenue of USD 49,402.6 million in 2024 and was projected to reach USD 103,686.5

Mr. Suman Billa, Additional Secretary & Director General of Tourism, Government of India, stated that India is poised to lead global MICE tourism, driven by booming aviation, enhanced connectivity, and world-class infrastructure. He added, *"A unified national strategy, skilled talent, digital tools, and strong state-led promotion can propel us into the top five MICE markets by 2025."* While India already has the necessary infrastructure and market demand, he pointed out that the real challenge lies in coordination. *Mr Billa emphasised the need for city-level convention promotion bureaus, a strong national MICE brand, skill development academies, and a seamless digital portal. He concluded that India has the potential to become one of the leading global MICE destinations by 2035.*

Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President, FICCI; Mentor, FICCI Tourism Committee; CMD, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group, highlighted that India is no longer just a leisure destination and said, *"We are now ready to take on the world as a leading MICE destination. With exceptional infrastructure, seamless connectivity, and the proven capabilities we demonstrated during the G20, we have everything it takes to host large-scale global conventions. Through platforms like the Great Indian Travel Bazaar and Meet in India, we are not just showcasing our potential – we are inviting the world to collaborate, catalyse, and say, 'Let's meet in India'."*

million by 2030, registering a 13% CAGR. This growth was driven by emerging MICE-ready cities like Varanasi, Khajuraho, and Kochi. Over the last decade, India witnessed substantial infrastructure growth—over 1,50,000 km of roads, new railway stations, semi-high-speed trains, inland waterways, more than 150 airports, and 2.48 million hotel rooms. India's G20 presidency further solidified its venue network and regional tourism potential.

Madhya Pradesh Simplifies Filmmaking with Cinema-Friendly Culture and Diverse Locations

Actor Aamir Khan

At the prestigious **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025**, Madhya Pradesh made a powerful impression on the global creative community, spotlighting its rich culture, film-friendly ecosystem, and vast tourism potential. Actor Aamir Khan visited the vibrant “Incredible Madhya Pradesh” pavilion and was welcomed by Shri Sanjay Dubey, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of IT, Science & Technology, and Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture, and Religious Trusts & Endowments Department, and Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board.



Aamir Khan expressed deep appreciation for the state’s conducive filmmaking atmosphere, saying, *“People in Madhya Pradesh are incredibly cinema-friendly, which makes the filmmaking process smooth and hassle-free for the entire crew. The state’s beautiful and diverse locations ease the shooting of varied scenes, ultimately saving both time and budget.”*

He lauded the newly launched **Film Tourism Policy 2025**, emphasizing that films rooted in Madhya Pradesh’s rural settings are earning critical acclaim. Khan also showed keen interest in the state’s revamped AVGC-XR Policy 2025, hinting at future collaborations. It is noteworthy that, “Laapataa Ladies”, a film shot in MP, was India’s official entry to the Oscars.

A panel discussion titled **“With Digital Dreams and Cinematic Vision: Madhya Pradesh – The Next Creative Hub”** was held at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC). Key voices included Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla, filmmaker Ekta Kapoor, FICCI AVGC Forum Chairman Ashish S. Kulkarni, founder of August Media Group Jyotirmoy Saha, Creative Land Studios CEO Shobha Senthil, noted writer Naman Ramachandran, and actors Amit Sial and Sharad Kelkar. The event witnessed the official launch of MP’s Film Tourism Policy 2025, the AVGC-XR Policy 2025, and the second phase of the state’s Film Facilitation Portal.



“Madhya Pradesh is My First Choice” Says Ekta Kapoor

Noted filmmaker Ekta Kapoor praised the state for offering everything that modern-day film production demands — financial incentives, seamless single-window clearances, breathtaking locations, and ease of shooting — all underpinned by a rich cultural heritage. *“Just as Spain attracted international filmmakers through robust policy support, Madhya Pradesh too is poised to become a filmmaker’s first choice,” she said.*



“New Policies Are More Attractive Than Ever” Says Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla

Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla emphasized that Madhya Pradesh has emerged as a truly “ease-of-shooting” destination, backed by a cooperative local ecosystem, diverse and picturesque locations, and streamlined support systems. Detailing the state’s robust incentive structure, he shared that filmmakers are eligible for financial assistance of up to ₹1.5 crore for a first-time shoot in the state, ₹1.75 crore for a second-time shoot, and up to ₹2 crore for a third-time shoot. Additional incentives are also provided for films made in regional languages and those involving local talent. *“With our attractive incentives, hassle-free permissions, and culturally immersive environment, Madhya Pradesh is poised to give Mumbai a run for its money as India’s next filming hub,” he said.*

The WAVES 2025 Summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, and organized by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India.

“Amrutasya Madhya Pradesh” Showcases the Soul of Incredible India

The cultural evening at WAVES 2025 came alive with the spellbinding group dance ballet “Amrutasya Madhya Pradesh”, a high-energy presentation that beautifully portrayed the spirit of Incredible Madhya Pradesh. Directed by renowned choreographer Maitry Pahadi, the performance blended classical Indian dance forms — Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Manipuri, Mohiniyattam, and Kuchipudi — with vibrant tribal and folk dances from MP such as Badhai, Baredi, Matki, and Gond.

Complementing the performance, a special textile-themed fashion walk directed by Mumtaz Khan showcased the splendor of MP’s traditional weaves — Maheshwari, Chanderi, and Bagh — reflecting the state’s deep-rooted artistry and craftsmanship.

“Incredible Madhya Pradesh” Pavilion Captivates Global Delegates

The Incredible Madhya Pradesh pavilion was a major crowd-puller at WAVES 2025. It creatively highlighted the state’s wildlife, heritage, and tourism through cutting-edge anamorphic 3D screens and virtual reality experiences via Oculus headsets. Visitors — including international artists, investors, and policymakers — explored the state’s natural and cultural offerings.

Interactive touchscreens detailed the latest tourism and film policies, while brochures, tourism maps, and souvenirs helped guests take home a slice of MP’s timeless charm.



Tourism Department Holds High-Level Stakeholder Meeting to Strategize on Challenges and Opportunities for Goa's Tourism Industry



In a proactive move to reinforce Goa's position as a premier tourism destination, the Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, convened a high-level stakeholder meeting today at Paryatan Bhavan, Panjim. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Shri Rohan A. Khaunte, and attended by key officials including Shri Kedar Naik, Director of Tourism; Shri Kuldeep Arolkar, Managing Director of GTDC; Shri Shawn Mendes, OSD to the Hon'ble Minister; and leading members of the tourism industry and Goa Tourism Board.

In his opening remarks, **Hon'ble Minister Shri Rohan A. Khaunte** emphasized the importance of timely and structured stakeholder engagements, particularly in light of national and regional developments. Referring to the recent Pahalgam incident in Kashmir, he noted, "As the Hon'ble Prime Minister ensured a swift and resolute response through Operation Sindoor, it was equally important for us, as a tourism-driven state, to evaluate the ripple effects on travel sentiment. Today's meeting was not only about addressing current concerns, but also about building long-term resilience. We are moving from mere policy reviews to dynamic recalibrations that are responsive to ground realities. Goa's strength lies in its people—every Goan is a stakeholder, an influencer, and a tourism ambassador."

Director of Tourism, Shri Kedar Naik, underlined the Department's commitment to listening, learning, and enabling. "We are here to ensure that the voice of every stakeholder is heard. From formal hotels to homestays, from digital platforms to community operators—Goa Tourism belongs to all of them. The goal is to ensure that our policies remain inclusive, adaptive, and implementation-ready."

The Department also shared encouraging data, with Goa witnessing a 10.5% year-on-year growth in tourist arrivals for the first quarter of 2025, rising from 25,80,155 in Q1 2024 to 28,51,554 in Q1 2025. While the month of April saw a marginal dip, the overall sentiment remains strong, and targeted strategies are being deployed to address seasonal and market-specific variations.

The full-day series of sectoral and plenary sessions reflected the Government's emphasis on collaborative governance. From understanding how the previous season unfolded, to jointly preparing for emerging challenges—whether geopolitical, geoeconomic, or geostrategic—the consultations reaffirmed Goa Tourism's commitment to collective foresight and resilience-building.

The concerns raised during today's discussions, along with those from previous meetings, have been consolidated. The Hon'ble Chief Minister will soon be chairing an interdepartmental meeting to drive a more coordinated response and lasting resolutions to the challenges at hand.

Tourism in Unexplored Destinations

A CEO's Approach to Promoting Hidden Gems at Your Convenience

In the current digital landscape, people have access to travel and explore beautiful places more easily than ever before. Famous tourist places are crowded with visitors all year, resulting in overcrowding, increased prices, and a loss of the vibe and beauty that once made these places iconic and epic. Being the CEO of an online travel agency, I have witnessed firsthand how travellers' choices are rapidly expanding. A large number of people are eyeing adventurous experiences that they haven't had before. From exploring destinations rich in culture and offering authenticity and tranquillity to off-the-beaten-path locations, visitors' passion to cover all these places is evolving immensely. For this reason, our main focus is to highlight the unexplored scenic destinations. Those hidden gems with untapped potential for tourism, cultural relations, and economic stability. Promoting these lesser-known regions can be advantageous for both communities and travel enthusiasts, as they will also benefit from sustainable tourism.

Why Hidden Gems Matter

Real travellers are the ones who have the passion to discover something out of the box. What makes their mood jubilant is when they recall their precious moments where they have had some major fun and thrilling experiences while exploring unexpected destinations. Be it beaches not found in any social media or guidebooks, a mountain which is far from any populated areas, or a serene coastal village. These places have unforgettable stories, local touches, and traditions that are unrecognised by mass tourism.

However, without any proper infrastructure and a lack of visibility, places like these remain unpopular and unrecognised. By emphasising these hidden gems, we will be able to strike a balance between over-tourism and under-tourism. We can maintain the tourism flow, reduce the burden on over-visited places, and unveil new opportunities for both local communities and travellers. From the rice terraces of North Luzon in the Philippines to the vineyards of Georgia (the country, not the U.S.), there's a world waiting to be discovered – responsibly and conveniently.

Our Approach: Convenience Meets Discovery

At Travomint, we value every traveller's preferences and their personalised travel. We are aware that while visitors seek unique experiences, they also value convenience. Hence, our approach to expanding unseen places integrates customised planning, seamless digital apps, and dependable digital tools.

We invest in designing precise and detailed information about these destinations, from transportation and accommodation options to cultural and guided activities. Through our platform, we can create an easy, authentic and unique trip for the audience. So much so that the audience will feel it is as simple to go out for a trip to a remote village in Ladakh as it is to plan a weekend in Paris.



By Alok K Singh, Chairman and CEO, Travomint

We have partnered with local guides, businesses and transport services to curate end-to-end trip packages. These attempts are being implemented with the focus on easing travelling for the visitors and providing them an immersive, hassle-free experience while the community benefits directly from tourism revenue.

Empowering Local Communities

Unfolding hidden gems goes beyond just replacing one destination with another on a travel list. It's a conscious decision to build robust local economies. When travellers experience the beauty of unknown places, they often prioritise quality-enriched living. For instance, they may know some popular destinations in Himachal Pradesh, like Spiti Valley, Kasol, and Kasauli, but they may not be aware of a place called Jibhi, which has a serene ambience, wooden cottages, and lush green trees, making it one of the secret gems of Himachal Pradesh. If we promote these lesser-explored destinations, then travellers may opt for local homestays, buy handcrafted products, and engage in traditions. This not only sustains local lifestyles but also preserves cultural heritage.

It is our responsibility as an online travel agency, and we take it very seriously. We provide training and assistance to small-scale tourism operators in far-flung areas, enabling them to digitise their business and get connected with international travellers. Our aim is to ensure that the growth of tourism is both sustainable and inclusive.

Responsible and Sustainable Travel

The growth of tourism in unexplored destinations must be there by an ethical framework. We aim to educate our audience on sustainable living, such as reducing waste, abiding by cultural rules and regulations, and selecting environmentally friendly stays. We have joined hands with organisations that talk about conservation and ensure that high footfall does not impact the environment negatively. By utilising our technology, we can easily track algorithms and responses, which we can further share with local tourism members to benefit them, prepare and manage growth responsibly.

Over the next few years, I envision travelling to go beyond checklists and monuments that one must see. The traveller of the future will be looking for stories, connection, and significance. Our responsibility is to make those experiences possible, safe, and accessible. By investing in untapped destinations, we not only open up the travel horizon for our users but also help to build a more equal and authentic travel sector.

Jamaica Tourism Shines with Record Carnival Arrivals, Global Awards and Transformation of Kingston



Jamaica continues to strengthen its position as a premier global destination, with a series of major achievements in early 2025 that underscore its cultural vibrancy, hospitality excellence, and global appeal. The island recently hosted its most successful Carnival yet, welcoming over 140,000 visitors during the peak period—A 15% increase over 2024. The surge in arrivals is a powerful signal of Jamaica’s status as a hub for cultural tourism.

Events across Kingston, Montego Bay, and Ocho Rios brought together road marches, fetes, and concerts that captivated thousands of visitors from across the globe. The hotels of Kingston reached 95% occupancy, and supporting sectors like transportation, dining, and retail saw heightened demand. Social media campaigns and strategic partnerships also played a key role in the global reach and impact of the event.

The Jamaican tourism industry is focusing on positioning Kingston as a premier leisure tourism destination, with a strong calendar of cultural and entertainment events reshaping the city’s image and global appeal. The capital city, known for its rich music, art, and culinary heritage, is now gaining renewed recognition for its growing role in the island’s dynamic tourism landscape.

“In the past few years, Kingston has evolved from being primarily a business and administrative hub to a vibrant centre for leisure and culture-driven tourism,” said Donovan White, Director of Tourism, Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB). “We are seeing a positive shift in how travellers are experiencing Kingston — not just as a gateway, but as a destination in its own right.”

Further solidifying Jamaica’s reputation, the destination received multiple honours in the Tripadvisor® Travelers’ Choice Awards 2025. Jamaica ranked #13 for Best Honeymoon Destination, #11 for Best Culinary Destination, and #24 for Best Cultural Destination in the world. In another milestone, S Hotel Montego Bay was named the #1 All-Inclusive in Jamaica, #2 in the Caribbean, and #11 in the world by Tripadvisor’s Best of the Best Awards.

These accolades reflect consistent traveller satisfaction and the island’s commitment to providing enriching experiences. The recognition—based solely on traveller reviews—celebrates the hotel’s modern design, personalized service, and deep cultural roots. These accomplishments collectively highlight the island’s resilience, innovation, and unmatched charm.

Korea Tourism Organization Strengthens India Outreach by Appointing Hina Khan as Honorary Ambassador

Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) has officially appointed Indian actress and celebrated media personality, Ms. Hina Khan, as the Honorary Ambassador of Korea Tourism from India for the term May 2025 to April 2026. The official appointment ceremony was held on 9th May, 2025 at the KTO Seoul Center (HiKr Ground), in the presence of Mr. Andrew JH Kim, Acting Executive VP, International Tourism Division, KTO.

With this appointment, Ms. Hina Khan joins KTO's mission to further enhance the visibility and appeal of Korea as a preferred travel destination among Indian travellers. Through her recent week-long familiarization (FAM) trip across Seoul, Gangwon-do, and Incheon, Ms. Hina Khan explored and showcased unique cultural experiences, Korean vegetarian cuisine, K-Drama filming locations, and K-Pop hotspots that resonate with the growing Hallyu (Korean Wave) fandom in India.

Expressing her delight, **Ms. Hina Khan, said:** *"It is a great honour to be appointed as the Honorary Ambassador of Korea Tourism. Korea has always fascinated me – from its beautiful landscapes and rich traditions to the global popularity of K-Drama and K-Pop. I am truly excited to continue to explore and share my journey through Korea with my audience and encourage more Indians to discover this wonderful destination."*

This collaboration is part of KTO India's continued efforts to engage Indian audiences through curated travel content and theme-based promotions. The appointment of Ms. Hina Khan marks a key milestone in promoting Korea as an accessible and culturally rich destination for Indian outbound travellers.

Mr. Myong Kil Yun, Regional Director – India & SAARC Countries, Korea Tourism Organization (KTO) said: *"We are delighted to welcome Ms. Hina Khan as our Honorary Ambassador for Korea Tourism from India. Her remarkable connect with young audiences and her vibrant storytelling style on social media make her an ideal representative to promote Korea's dynamic and diverse offerings. We believe this partnership will open new doors for Indian travellers to experience Korea's culture, food, and trends in a more personal and immersive way."*

Mr. Andrew JH Kim, Acting Executive VP, International Tourism Division, KTO.



From Culture to Conservation

Nature Tourism in Sharjah



In the UAE, Sharjah stands out as a destination where nature and culture intertwine, offering a wide range of landscapes that appeal to adventurers and conservationists alike. From expansive deserts and rocky mountains to lush mangrove forests and serene coastlines, Sharjah's environment is as diverse as it is beautiful.

While much of the country is associated with sand dunes and arid terrains, Sharjah reveals the UAE's lesser-known ecological richness—inviting everyone to explore, learn, and help protect it.

Sharjah is at the forefront of promoting eco-conscious tourism. The emirate is home to several protected areas that serve as sanctuaries for native flora and fauna. For those drawn to mountain adventures, the Hajar Mountains in eastern Sharjah offer scenic escapes and panoramic views, especially around Khorfakkan.

Popular hiking routes include Shees Village, the dramatic Mleiha Fossil Rock trail, and the family-friendly paths at Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Centre, where visitors can also spot Arabian wildlife such as the endangered Arabian leopard and mountain gazelles.

Sharjah's coastline and marine life also offer unforgettable experiences. At Khor Kalba Mangrove Centre, guests

can learn about one of the emirates oldest mangrove ecosystems while kayaking or walking through eco-friendly boardwalks. Meanwhile, Khorfakkan beach and Sira Khorfakkan Island is a hotspot for snorkelling and diving, where vibrant coral reefs, historic shipwrecks, and colourful marine life await underwater explorers.

In line with national sustainability goals, Sharjah supports environmental education and youth engagement through collaborations with organisations such as Emirates Nature-WWF. Programmes like 'Connect with Nature' empower young people across the UAE—including those in Sharjah—to become champions of conservation and future leaders in environmental stewardship.

With more than 5,000 square kilometres of the UAE designated as protected land, and Sharjah playing a key role in that effort, the emirate continues to set an example in balancing development with preservation. Whether you're a resident looking for a weekend escape or a traveller seeking authentic, nature-based experiences, Sharjah is a natural choice for reconnecting with the land—and protecting it for generations to come.

Visit Georgia: Easier Than Ever for Indian Passport Holders

Indians remain one of Georgia's most valued visitors for tourism, and Georgian National Tourism Administration (GNTA) deeply appreciates the increasing enthusiasm among Indian travellers to explore the country's vibrant culture, stunning landscapes and warm hospitality.

Georgia remains open and excited to welcome Indian friends. The country's visa process is designed to be fair and efficient. And, to ensure a smooth journey for all travellers, GNTA reminds the applicants to carefully follow the official guidelines.

These must include

- Photograph (passport size) meeting Georgian e-Visa photo requirements
- Passport scanned in a single PDF (only Bio pages)
- Mobile Number and email ID. (Aadhar Linked Mobile no.)
- Aadhar Card
- Financial Proof – Bank Statement (Last 6 months) in PDF format unedited, ITR of the last 3 years and Pan card
- If you have been sponsored, then a Bank Statement of the person who is sponsoring, Proof of Relationship and Sponsorship Letter signed by the sponsor
- Evidence of sufficient funds to support your stay in Georgia
- Proof of employment from your employer

- Travel/ Health Insurance
- Hotel bookings, Tickets and detailed itinerary

Georgia is visa-free for Indian passport holders if you have a US, UK, Schengen or Japan visa.

GNTA encourages Indian travellers to plan ahead and ensure all documents are in order before applying. It is recommended that the travellers use only official platforms for information and application.

Additionally, visitors must be able to present all the required documents at the Georgian state border to gain hassle-free entry. These would include:

- Travel Document/Passport
- Printed copy of e-visa (if applicable)
- Document proving purpose of travel
- Flight tickets (return)
- Proof of accommodation
- Travel and health insurance
- Document proving sufficient financial means

Georgia remains committed to offering Indian tourists an exciting and enriching travel experience. GNTA looks forward to welcoming more visitors from India in the coming seasons.



New Orleans & Company Partners with The Piano Man Eldeco Centre, to Showcase the City's Spirit of Music and Jazz



New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz, enchanted Delhi's music lovers with a vibrant celebration of its rich musical heritage. In a strategic collaboration with The Piano Man Eldeco Centre, New Delhi, a specially curated series of eight monthly evening events began on May 16, 2025, and continued through December 2025, capturing the unique multicultural spirit of the Crescent City.

Drawing inspiration from legendary locales like Preservation Hall and Frenchmen Street, and honouring icons such as Louis Armstrong and Wynton Marsalis, the series pulsed with the soul of New Orleans jazz. The Piano Man's flagship venue at the Eldeco Centre transformed into a cultural hub, featuring themed activities, Creole-inspired culinary experiences, and electrifying performances that transported audiences straight to the heart of New Orleans.

With convenient international connections from India via hubs like New York, Atlanta, London and Dubai, New Orleans is just a flight away for travellers seeking soulful rhythms, vibrant nightlife, and warm Southern hospitality. From historic jazz clubs in the French Quarter to beignets, street parades, and the famous Mardi Gras, every corner of this culturally rich city invites discovery. Easy travel planning tools and access to New Orleans' professional travel planners for international visitors can be found at www.neworleans.com.

Launched in October 2023, the Piano Man Eldeco Center has become a cornerstone of India's cultural and live music scene. With state-of-the-art lighting, immersive sound design, and a massive LED wall, the venue provides an unparalleled sensory experience. Combined with its two other older branches, the Piano Man has already hosted over 10,000 concerts featuring global jazz legends such as Herbie Hancock, Tigran Hamasyan, Ivan Santos, Jojo Mayer, Chick Corea, Cory Wong, and more. Tickets for these shows can be bought at www.thepianoman.in and other ticket sites.



Mussoorie Sky Car Private Limited to launch India's Longest Passenger Ropeway connecting Mussoorie and Dehradun



A new chapter in sustainable mountain tourism and urban mobility is about to unfold as Mussoorie Sky Car Private Limited gears up to launch the highly anticipated Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway. This cutting-edge mono-cable detachable gondola system will span 5.2 kilometres and ascend 1,000 meters, dramatically reducing travel time between Dehradun and Mussoorie to just 20 minutes. The construction of its initial phase is planned to be completed by September 2026. Once operational, it will be South Asia's longest ropeway of its kind and one of the longest in the world—ushering in a new era of tourism, connectivity, and green infrastructure in the region.

Mussoorie Sky Car Private Limited is a consortium comprising three leading players in the urban mobility and infrastructure sectors: FIL Industries Private Limited, POMA SAS, and SRM Engineering LLP.

FIL Industries Private Limited is a diversified business enterprise with interests in agriculture, F&B, tourism, ropeway mobility solutions, and hospitality. It is also India's largest CEN-certified ropeway operator, and is known for its flagship project, Skyview by Empyrean, which has been operational since 2019 in Sanget-Patnitop, Jammu and Kashmir. The ropeway spanning 2.8 km, is currently the highest ropeway in India in terms of ground clearance. Over the years, the mountain harbour has established itself as a benchmark for sustainable mobility and tourism infrastructure in the country.

SRM Engineering LLP brings a robust track record in financing, developing, and operating infrastructure assets across India, France, the UAE, and South Africa. Backed by the promoters of Rahman Group and Hindustan Dock Yard Pvt. Ltd., SRM strengthens the project's development and execution capabilities.

POMA SAS serves as the project's technical partner, shareholder, and strategic supplier, reinforcing its long-term commitment to ropeway development in India. The Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway marks POMA's first concession investment in India and will be the first European-standard ropeway in the country, with a significant portion of the equipment being manufactured locally through POMA India.

"A collaboration like Mussoorie Sky Car will ensure that the project benefits from cutting-edge technology, global engineering expertise, European safety standards, and sustainable design. Together, we are building India's longest and safest cable car system. Through world-class projects like this, our goal is to place India firmly on the global map as a hub for an advanced, fast, safe, and eco-friendly ropeway system," said **Mr. Syed Junaid Altaf – Group Executive Director, FIL Industries Private Limited.**

At the recently held leading international trade fair for alpine technologies, INTERALPIN'25 in Innsbruck, Austria, the three industry leaders introduced the project, officially marking the beginning of their collaboration and the initiation of the ropeways' construction.

The consortium has also secured the prestigious Yamunotri Ropeway Project. Spanning 3.8 km between Yamunotri and Kharsali in Uttarakhand, the cable car will significantly open access to one of India's most revered pilgrimage sites.

Datia Palace

A Masterpiece Never Inhabited — Now a UNESCO Marvel in Madhya Pradesh



In the heart of Madhya Pradesh, where the past whispers through stone corridors and the wind carries legends across the plains, rises the enchanting Datia Palace — a forgotten dream in sandstone and lime, now rediscovered by time. Also known as Bir Singh Palace, Satkhanda Mahal, Govind Mahal, and Purana Mahal, this monumental structure perches on a rugged hillock in the town of Datia — its silhouette a silent ode to friendship, royalty, and architectural brilliance. With its recent inclusion in the UNESCO Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, this palace is no longer just a relic of history — it is a crown jewel in the living museum of Madhya Pradesh.

Commissioned in 1614 by Raja Bir Singh Deo of Orchha — a fearless Bundela warrior and an aesthete king — the palace was built in honor of his dearest friend, Prince Salim, who would later ascend the Mughal throne as Emperor Jahangir. Their bond, born amidst political turbulence, was strengthened when Bir Singh Deo stood beside Salim in his battle against Emperor Akbar. And so, the palace was not just a royal abode, but a monument to loyalty. But fate, ever whimsical, had other plans. Neither the emperor nor the king ever lived in it. Jahangir, gracious yet distant, declined the invitation — and the palace, grand and glowing, remained uninhabited, its rooms echoing with the footsteps that never came.

Today, the palace stands still and sublime — a silent sentinel of history with nearly 400 rooms decorated with delicate frescoes, Mughal arches, Rajput jharokhas, and intricate spandrels painted with horses, deities, and courtly scenes. Its symmetrical layout, said to resemble the sacred swastik, speaks of sacred geometry and sovereign intent. Locals refer to it as Bhool Bhulaiya, thanks to the maze hidden within — now closed to preserve its secrets. The grandeur of this place once dazzled British eyes — Lord Hastings visited in 1818 and Viceroy Lord Curzon held court here in 1902. Sir Edward Lutyens, architect of New Delhi, is believed to have drawn inspiration from its sculptural precision for the capital's famed North and South Blocks.

“Madhya Pradesh offers diverse and unique destinations to each traveler,” says Shri Sheo Shekhar Shukla, Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board and Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture, and Religious Trusts & Endowments Department. “Travelers undoubtedly find rest and renewal in the state’s Offbeat Multispecialty Destinations. The breathtaking state, which is appropriately referred to as the Heart of Incredible India, is consistently the ideal fusion of architectural splendor, unexplored landscapes, tranquil scenery, and customs. The state is a fantastic tourism destination for travellers from both local and foreign countries.”



But Datia is more than a palace paused in time — it is a living canvas of spirituality, heritage, and hidden charm. Start your journey just 2 km away at Shri Pitambara Peeth, a revered Shaktipeeth dedicated to Goddess Baglamukhi. Wrapped in incense and sacred chants, the temple exudes a mystic calm that draws devotees and seekers alike.

Then, travel 28 km to Orchha, the erstwhile capital of Raja Bir Singh Deo. With its majestic cenotaphs, temples, and riverside palaces, the town echoes the artistic legacy of the Bundela rulers. On your return, pause at Rajgarh Palace, 12 km from Datia, a lesser-known architectural jewel. Its quiet corridors and graceful arches offer a more intimate look into Bundeli grandeur — a perfect conclusion to your cultural sojourn.

Best Time to Visit

Between August and April, when the weather is soft and the stone walls breathe warmth under the sun and starlight.

Datia is not merely a destination — it is a fable waiting to be heard, a palace waiting to be felt, and a town that cradles timelessness in its arms. Here, history is not locked in glass cases but lingers in the air — in the silence of abandoned halls, in the glow of temple flames, and in the stories still told under village skies. Come, and lose yourself in the mystery, majesty, and magic of Datia — the beating heart of Incredible Madhya Pradesh.

How to Reach Datia

By Air : The nearest airport is Gwalior (40 km), well connected with regular taxis and buses to Datia.

By Rail : Datia Railway Station, located on the Delhi–Chennai route, connects seamlessly to major cities like Gwalior, Jhansi, Agra, and Bhopal.

By Road : On NH-44, Datia is easily accessible from Bhopal, Gwalior, and Jhansi via comfortable bus and taxi services.

Monsoon travel in India

Top places to visit in India during the rainy season (June–Sept)

– Authored by Manshita

There's something magical about the Indian monsoon that words often fail to capture. Monsoon in India is not just a season, but it's a feeling from the scent of wet earth and dramatic skies to the rhythmic sound of rain. A season that breathes life into nature and stirs the soul. This article explores

India's most magical destinations during the rains, with tips, cultural references, and everything you need to travel smartly through the season. From Munnar, Kerala's tea gardens and waterfalls, to Udaipur, Rajasthan's lakes and palaces, travellers get an unforgettable experience of

monsoons in India. Whether you're seeking serene landscapes, cultural festivals, or offbeat destinations, the rainy season promises memories that last a lifetime. Here are a few places you must visit in India during the rainy season (June –September).

Munnar, Kerala



One of my top monsoon recommendations is Munnar, a hill station in Kerala, which looks enchanting during the rains as the monsoon enhances its beauty, which seems to be perfect for a getaway or a nature treat. It's more famous for tea gardens, waterfalls, and cloud-laced valleys. The best time to visit Munnar is mid-July to August, and your ideal stay for enjoying the time the most is at the properties of Rainforest Resorts or tea estate bungalows. While being there and enjoying your getaways, you can also get familiar with their festivals, like Onam, a harvest festival that includes boat racing, traditional dancing, feasts, and colourful decorations.

Goa



Goa will be a surprise during the monsoon, but while we all are familiar that Goa is famous for its beaches in the summers and winters, have you ever visited Goa during the rains? It looks magnificent during the rain. It offers a different charm: quieter beaches, dramatic seascapes, lush hinterlands, and off-season discounts. To enjoy the cool breeze flowing, you will love the ideal stay at Boutique stays or Rustic Beach Shacks. The Sao João and Chikal Kalo festivals are the highlights during the monsoon season. You'll be able to witness the festival, which showcases the remarkable monsoon tradition of their region.

Coorg, Karnataka



Not far from here, you'll find Coorg, Karnataka, which is also known as the "Scotland of India." Coorg's coffee plantations and rolling hills are the most surreal views of greenery during monsoon. The pouring down of waterfalls adds a mist in nature. The best time to visit is from June to August. Your ideal stay can be in plantation stays or cosy hilltop cottages.

Valley of Flowers, Uttarakhand

If you're craving a trek, head to the Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand, where hundreds of species of wildflowers of every colour burst into bloom, especially during the rainy season in Uttarakhand, which can assure nature lovers that their trek will be breathtaking. The Valley of Flowers is also known as "Foolo ki Ghati" (Valley of Flowers). In my personal experience, the best time to visit is from mid-July to August to have the best trek of your life. Your ideal stay could be at the guesthouse in Ghangaria or the campsites to have the most surreal experience.



Mumbai, India



And last but not least, Mumbai, as the "Bombay rains are to die for," you heard the phrase too, right? With the first drop of rain on Mumbai's streets and sitting on Marine Drive watching the rain while having hot tea, the city undergoes a dramatic transformation. Love it or hate it, Mumbai's monsoon is an experience that stirs every sense—raging seas, neon-lit streets reflecting puddles, and the aroma of street food mixing in the wet soil air make for an exceptional experience. The monsoon months see artisans crafting massive Ganesha idols (an Indian god), while the actual festival falls around August–September. The ideal stay will be at the iconic Taj Hotel.

Udaipur, Rajasthan



And then there's Udaipur, Rajasthan's city of lakes, which looks more beautiful than in the monsoon season. As the rain splashes in the lake, it brings the city's palaces and gardens back to life. The relief from Rajasthan's humid and hot weather and rain makes the palaces in the city look magically serene while reflecting the cloudy skies. Your best time to visit is from July to early September. You can have the time of your life by staying in the perfect stays, like the Heritage hotels by the lake, which give the best view of the city. The festival you'll be able to witness during the monsoon is Teej, to enjoy marital harmony. Locals celebrate these festivals to mark the arrival of the monsoon.

As for food—oh, the food! India during monsoon is incomplete without piping hot pakoras, crispy fritters made of vegetables or paneer, accompanied by masala chai or the bhutta, also known as grilled corn with lemon and masala, and last but not least, od thalis. In regions like Goa, Kerala, and Maharashtra, the tastiest seafood is served in thalis, including rice, roti, and various curries.

Of course, there are some things to keep in mind while travelling in India during monsoons. Make sure you have travel insurance, as it's a wise choice. Always be updated about the weather conditions before heading to hilly regions prone to landslides. Also, carry your luggage lightly but smartly. A few recommendations you can follow to have the greatest and safest time of your life are to

carry waterproof jackets, plastic bags, and pouches to keep your electronic devices safe during the rain. But the experiences that awaken the senses and renew the soul are a must-visit!! You can unlock the unique beauty of travelling in the rain by skipping the crowds, following the clouds, and letting India's rainy season lead you on an unforgettable journey.

Go Glamping : The Best of Comfort and Adventure in the Golden State

California blends the thrill of camping with the conveniences of a luxury stay at the best glamping experiences across the state. From the beauty of the coasts to the wilderness of the national parks, California's glamping retreats are the perfect way to experience nature and the great outdoors.

Wilderness Retreats - For hiking, biking, boating, fishing and water sports experiences, the perfect glamping spots are nestled among California's top mountain, lake and forest locations.

Cave Springs Resort - Step back in time with a vintage stay in an Airstream at Cave Springs Resort near the picturesque small town of Dunsmuir. During the day, have an adventure in nearby Mount Shasta, relax by the serene Sacramento River or hike to Hedge Creek Falls. At night, unwind in your lovingly restored Airstream, which blends modern conveniences with nostalgic charm.

SunHawk Farms - Mendocino's SunHawk Farms is an ideal family vacation spot with its glamping tents, kid-friendly water slide and recreational lake. The eco-friendly resort is set on seven acres and invites families to connect in nature or have fun at one of its pickleball camps.

Camp Nauvoo - Located near Lake Tahoe, Camp Nauvoo in Placerville affords the beauty of Tahoe without the crowds. The camp sits over 88 acres alongside Weber Creek and offers glamping tents and teepee accommodations. With hiking, swimming, fishing, sports and games on the property, families do not need to leave the campsite to enjoy the bucolic beauty of the area.

Dawn Ranch - For a couple's glamping getaway, Dawn Ranch in the San Francisco Bay area provides the perfect escape. Vintage canvas tents are set amongst fruit trees in the orchard. At night couples can roast s'mores or learn to play Fender guitars around the campground. The Spa at Dawn Ranch offers nature-inspired couples services, while The Lodge blends gastronomic delights with a relaxed atmosphere.

Under Canvas Yosemite - The venerable Under Canvas brand opens its first California camp this year with an 80-acre base just 10 minutes from the entrance of Yosemite National Park. With plush king-size beds, ensuite bathrooms and West Elm furnishings, this is the ultimate in luxurious glamping.





Coastal Glamping Getaways – If you are looking for stunning views, gorgeous sunsets, walks on the beach and water adventures, a coastal glamping getaway is for you.

Waypoint Ventura – Stay in style on the Central Coast in one of 20 Airstream trailers at Waypoint Ventura, located just blocks from Ventura Beach. Each Airstream was uniquely restored, and guests could choose from trailers like The Flamingo or Green Eggs & Ham adding to the fun experience.

Camp Catalina White's Landing – Live the island life on Catalina Island at Camp Catalina White's Landing. While the island became known as the playground to the stars during the Golden Age of Hollywood, today, everyone can enjoy its stunning natural beauty. At the Camp, guests stay in beachfront cabins or tents outfitted with comfy beds. From March to November, Family Camp is in session, offering guided fishing excursions, yoga, and a Trapper Adventure program for kids.

Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort – Rent an RV or stay in a luxurious beachfront cottage at Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort in Newport Beach. The property offers gorgeous beach views, a Pirate's playground, a summer waterpark, water sports rentals, boat launch and beachside cabanas. Evenings are spent roasting marshmallows over beach bonfires while enjoying the resort's laid-back ambience. Conveniently located near Fashion Island, Balboa Island and other top Southern California attractions, the resort blends outdoor luxury with modern conveniences.

Mission Bay RV Resort & Campland on the Bay – Campland on the Bay and Mission Bay RV Resort are two premier resorts that offer a mix of coastal luxury and outdoor adventure in the heart of San Diego. Campland on the Bay is a vibrant camp for RV owners and offers RV rentals. Beachfront fire pits, water sports and a lively atmosphere make it a great family getaway. For a more relaxing retreat, Mission Bay RV Resort provides a serene environment with access to hiking and biking trails and watersport adventures.

Desert & Unique Experiences – Open vistas, star-filled skies and endless opportunities for adventure await those who opt for desert or unusual glamping locations in California.

Noma Resort – Experience the stunning High Sierra landscape at the Noma Resort, featuring fully appointed geometric domes. Each dome boasts en suite accommodations with a skylight to soak in the star-studded evening sky. The domes are nestled alongside one of four fishing ponds on the property. Go apple picking in the resort's 30-acre orchard, canoe on one of the ponds or jump on a hiking trail to experience the beauty of the High Sierra.

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resort – Located in Lodi, near Six Flags Discovery Kingdom, Funderland Park, and the Micke Grove Zoo, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp Resort is the ultimate family-friendly getaway. With a water park, laser tag, mini-golf and more, the kids will never have a dull moment. Stay in a cosy cabin, set up camp in an RV site or enjoy the comforts of a spacious tent site. For trips without kids, the park is within an easy drive of the Lodi wine country, San Francisco and Sacramento.

Palm Canyon Hotel & RV Resort – Enjoy a Wild West glamping experience near Anza-Borrego Desert State Park at Palm Canyon Hotel & RV Resort. RV guests can enjoy the property's amenities including pools and a Wild West saloon. Located within an International Dark Sky Community, it is hard to beat the nightly stargazing. During the day, cowboy up with desert adventures and nearby hiking.

Old Town Ranch – Harken back to the time of the pioneers at Old Town Ranch in Temecula. Guests stay in a converted Conestoga wagon outfitted with all the modern conveniences. During the day, enjoy horseback riding, take a scenic stroll through the ranch, or venture off to one of nearly 50 wineries located within minutes.



ZOROAM Introduces the World's First B2B Solution for Travel eSIMs



Sandeep Khetarpal, Founder of The Global Rep, emphasized ZOROAM's potential to redefine the travel technology landscape, *"Connectivity has become as essential as accommodation and transportation for travelers. With ZOROAM, we are solving one of the most persistent challenges in international travel—reliable and cost-effective mobile data. Our mission is to equip travel professionals with innovative, cost-saving solutions that set them apart in an increasingly competitive market."*

The Global Rep, a pioneer in travel management and distribution, announced the launch of ZOROAM (www.zoroam.com), the world's first B2B wholesale platform dedicated to travel eSIMs. This groundbreaking initiative marked a significant shift in global connectivity, enabling travel businesses to offer seamless, affordable, and uninterrupted data solutions for international travellers.

As the global travel industry rebounded at an extraordinary rate, the need for reliable and cost-effective mobile connectivity surged. The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) projected a 30% rise in international travel in 2025, with over 1.8 billion travellers expected to cross borders annually. Traditional roaming remained costly and cumbersome, often burdening travellers with high charges and limited network access. ZOROAM effectively addressed this gap, offering travel partners access to advanced eSIM technology and reducing connectivity costs by up to 70% compared to conventional roaming services.

Through its B2B wholesale model, ZOROAM empowered tour operators, travel agencies, airlines, and corporate travel providers to integrate eSIM solutions directly into their services. This allowed their customers to enjoy reliable mobile connectivity across global destinations, without the hassle of physical SIM cards or exorbitant roaming fees. With ZOROAM, eSIMs could be activated instantly upon arrival, ensuring travellers stayed connected every step of the way.

Key Benefits of ZOROAM

Affordable Connectivity: Wholesale rates allow travel partners to provide cost-effective data solutions.

Seamless Integration: Travel businesses can bundle eSIMs with their packages, enhancing service offerings.

Global Coverage: Reliable connectivity across 190+ countries, ensuring uninterrupted service worldwide.

Instant Activation: No need for physical SIMs—travelers can switch networks effortlessly.

Revenue Opportunity: Travel businesses can unlock new income streams through eSIM reselling.

Vaibhav Khetarpal, Director and Chief Technology Lead at The Global Rep, highlighted the market potential of travel eSIMs, *"The travel industry is rapidly evolving, and digital transformation is at its core. eSIM adoption is expected to exceed 3.4 billion users by 2025, and with ZOROAM, we are providing travel partners with the tools to leverage this growing demand. This is more than just a connectivity solution—it's a strategic advantage."*

As travelers continue to prioritize seamless digital experiences, ZOROAM is set to become a game-changer in global travel connectivity. With an increasing number of travelers seeking hassle-free, cost-effective communication options, the demand for eSIM technology is projected to grow exponentially.

Travel businesses looking to enhance their customer offerings, improve loyalty, and drive new revenue streams are invited to explore ZOROAM's B2B platform and revolutionize their connectivity solutions.

Czechia's Beer Heritage

A Timeless Tale of Craft, Culture & Celebration



Czechia, globally recognised for its exceptional brewing tradition, is a place where beer isn't just brewed but deeply embedded in the country's cultural fabric. With its origins tracing back to 993 AD at the Břevnov Monastery in Prague, Czechia's beer heritage spans more than a thousand years and continues to shape the global beer landscape. It is in this historic land that iconic brews like Pilsner and Budweiser originate, setting the standard for beers enjoyed around the world.

From experiencing golden lagers to centuries-old brewing secrets, Czechia invites Indian travellers on a journey through its legendary beer heritage. With over 500 breweries spread across the country – from historic institutions to modern microbreweries, every stop offers something unique. In cities like Pilsen, where the iconic Pilsner Urquell was born and along the route to Český Krumlov near South Bohemia's České Budějovice, home of Budweiser Budvar, visitors can embark on guided tours that bring centuries of brewing traditions to life.

These tours offer a behind-the-scenes look at the brewing process, sharing captivating tales from Czechia's beer-soaked history and invite travellers to taste a wide variety of brews – from stouts, ales, APAs and IPAs to seasonal specials infused with herbs, honey or spices. It's an experience that blends discovery, tradition and indulgence making it truly unforgettable.



Beyond brewery tours, Czechia is also home to one-of-a-kind beer spas, where visitors indulge in therapeutic treatments known for their healing properties. These unique spas combine the soothing benefits of warm beer-infused water and herbs, providing a perfect blend of wellness and brewing heritage. Travellers immerse themselves in centuries-old traditions while enjoying a relaxing and truly distinctive experience.

In Czechia, beer isn't just a drink – it's a way of life. It remains an integral part of daily rituals, social gatherings and the country's cultural identity. Czechia offers Indian travellers an opportunity to enjoy & experience the spirit of a nation where brewing is both a tradition and a celebration. It's a journey filled with craftsmanship, creativity and culture best enjoyed over a perfect pint.

Tour Oman eyeing India's burgeoning wedding and incentives market

Oman's leading tourism stakeholder, Travel Point Group LLC (Tour Oman), is keen to develop Oman's destination profile and appeal and attractiveness as a wedding and incentive destination. Following close on heels of the announcement of Oman's Ministry of Heritage & Tourism of a series of incentives, schemes and facilities aimed at enhancing Oman's appeal as one of the best wedding and incentives tourism destinations for India, Tour Oman is keen to make its own investment in the Indian market in order to spur growth in the country's burgeoning wedding and incentives travel segments. Reinforcing its long-term commitment to the Indian market, Tour Oman has recently appointed Captivating Experiences as its Sales and Marketing Representative.

Oman's repertoire of bespoke luxury and exotic products, combined with beachside venues with rugged hills and ocean serving as the backdrop, picturesque landscapes and natural beauty make it one of the most alluring and exotic wedding destinations. Oman boasts some of the top brands like St. Regis Muscat, Shangri La Oman, Mandarin Oriental Oman, the iconic Al Bustan Palace, Ritz Carlton Hotel, and other idyllic and luxurious properties like Six Senses Zighy Bay, Anantara Al Baleed, and Alila Jabal Akhdar, among many others.



Soumava Mukherjee,

General Manager of Travel Point Group LLC, stated,

"Given India's population, an estimated 10 million weddings are taking place in India every year. And now, with a growing and prosperous middle class, increasing disposable income and a dream of living their once-in-a-lifetime wedding experience in the most exotic way possible, India has emerged as a leading source market for destination weddings. And Oman with its geographical proximity, its range of breathtaking and surreal destinations and luxury products and our ability to create bespoke once-in-a-lifetime experiences, makes us a great wedding destination."



Aneesh Mahajan, CEO & Co-Founder of Captivating Experiences,

added, "Tour Oman is also eyeing India's burgeoning MICE sector, particularly the fast-growing incentives market. India is the fastest-growing large economy. Its outbound travel registered nearly 10-11 per cent growth in 2024, surpassing 30 million in overseas visits. The economy is forecast to add about US\$ 1 trillion every 18 months. Given such dynamism in the Indian economy, companies across sectors are recording robust growth, which is reflected in the increased incentives tour that the corporates are rewarding their performers with. Indian outbound incentives are a tremendous opportunity to exploit, and given its massive presence in the Omani tourism sector, Tour Oman is incredibly well placed to provide the best incentive experiences."



White Desert Launches New South American Itineraries

White Desert, Antarctica's leading expedition company, is proud to announce The Dr. Jones Collection. In September 2025, the first of a series of new South American itineraries is being launched — Peru to Patagonia.

Venturing outside of the Polar Regions for the first time, these bespoke journeys combine the glamour of 1940s aviation and movie-set adventure. Guests will travel on a luxuriously-refitted 'Dakota' aircraft which can land on highly remote airstrips. This enables them to access some of the least explored locations on the continent, seamlessly and in style.

Each destination has been specifically chosen because it is nearly unknown, and guests will experience an array of utterly diverse landscapes in just 12 days.

Starting point: Peru. By the towering waterfall of Gocta, the third highest in the World, guests hike through Amazonian cloud forests to discover ancient mummies. A short flight and they are at our newly-created Dune Camp, nestled beside an incredible oasis, where they can dive for prized fan shells.

Amongst the salt flats of the Atacama Desert, guests have access to unparalleled star gazing before hiking through a canyon to volcanic hot springs. In Patagonia, at the Torres del Paine, they ride horses with authentic gauchos, encircled by tumbling glaciers that cascade into the open sea.

'Just as we have done in Antarctica, I wanted to create a journey that was as adventurous as it was luxurious — and in Dr. Jones, we have found the perfect balance', said White Desert Founder, Patrick Woodhead. 'Even on the reconnaissance for the journey, we visited landscapes that I never knew existed. They were just so surreal!'

Highly-experienced pilots and crew, along with a White Desert guide, accompany guests every step of the journey, ensuring a level of comfort and safety one can expect from a world-class Antarctic operator with 20 years of experience.



Let's Visit "J&K" – A TAAI Initiative to Revive Tourism and Support Livelihoods in Jammu & Kashmir

In immediate response to the recent situation in Jammu & Kashmir, the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) is launching the "Let's Visit J&K" campaign—a strong Community-Tourism-Industry Connect initiative. TAAI stands committed to supporting the people and the economy of Jammu & Kashmir, where tourism is a primary source of livelihood.

The Need of the Hour: Reignite Tourism in J&K

Jammu & Kashmir remains one of the most iconic, scenic, and culturally rich destinations in India and the world. While recent disturbances may have created concern, they cannot overshadow the timeless allure and glory of the region – an incident aimed to cause chaos & disturbance, cannot steal away the glory of J&K. Tourism has long been a harbinger of peace—a sentiment echoed by TAAI for decades. By encouraging people to travel to J&K, we are not only supporting livelihoods but also reinforcing a message of resilience, unity, and hope.

Our Key Initiatives Include:

Collaboration with the J&K Government: TAAI requests the Hon'ble Chief Minister and relevant authorities to ensure strong measures are in place for the safety and security of all travellers.

Partnership with the Hospitality Sector: TAAI will coordinate with hotels and local tourism operators to offer special promotional packages and personalized care to enhance the visitor experience.

Engagement with Airlines: TAAI invites airline partners to provide promotional airfares, making travel to J&K more accessible and attractive.

Leveraging Our Local Network: The TAAI J&K Chapter—comprising over 100 travel & tourism industry member companies is actively engaged as well.

In Phase One of this campaign, we aim to reach over one million travellers through the direct customer base of TAAI's 2,400+ member companies nationwide.

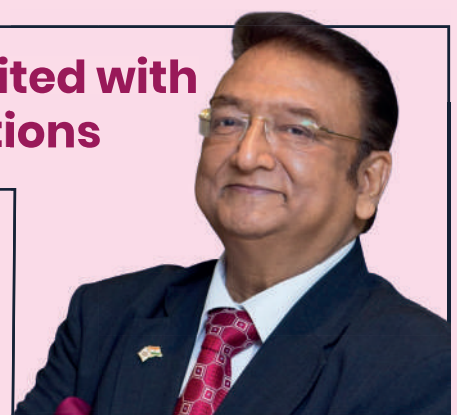
Indian Chamber of Commerce Stands United with Government, Urges Boycott of Hostile Nations

In light of India's firm response to terrorism and the recent terror attack targeting Indian tourists in Kashmir, the Indian Chamber of Commerce, through its Tourism Committee, stands in firm solidarity with the Government of India and the Indian Armed Forces in their calibrated and resolute response.

We salute our Armed Forces, and various other agencies within the Government, working under the strong leadership of our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on the tremendous success of Operation Sindoor. We also salute the citizens of the border areas for showing commendable bravery and cooperation. With great pride we proved to the world that we are a strong, undivided country and will not tolerate any kind of terrorism on our soil. We all are together in our fight against terrorism of all kinds.

Several tourism associations and industry bodies have issued statements of solidarity and collective commitment towards prioritising our national interest over commercial goals. The Indian Chamber of Commerce joins these organisations in demanding a boycott of states like Turkey and Azerbaijan, following their stand against India's response to terrorism. Tourism is a force for good and a driver of peace, global harmony and international understanding. The safety and integrity of our citizens has to be prioritized above all else. There is so much beauty in the world, we appeal to Indians traveling overseas to choose destinations that are safe, promote peace and are aligned with India's commitment against terrorism and separatist activities.

As one of India's oldest chambers of commerce, we remain committed to promoting ethical, responsible, and respectful business and tourism practices, while upholding the values of integrity, security, and unity of our country.



Press Statement by Dr. Subhash Goyal, Chairman, Tourism Committee, Indian Chamber of Commerce

FHRAI Hosts 'Harit Yoga' at FHRAI-IHM to Mark International Day of Yoga



The Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), in collaboration with the FHRAI Institute of Hospitality Management (FHRAI-IHM) and with the support of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, hosted Harit Yoga (A Signature Event as part of the International Day of Yoga) at the FHRAI-IHM campus in Greater Noida – 2025 celebrations.



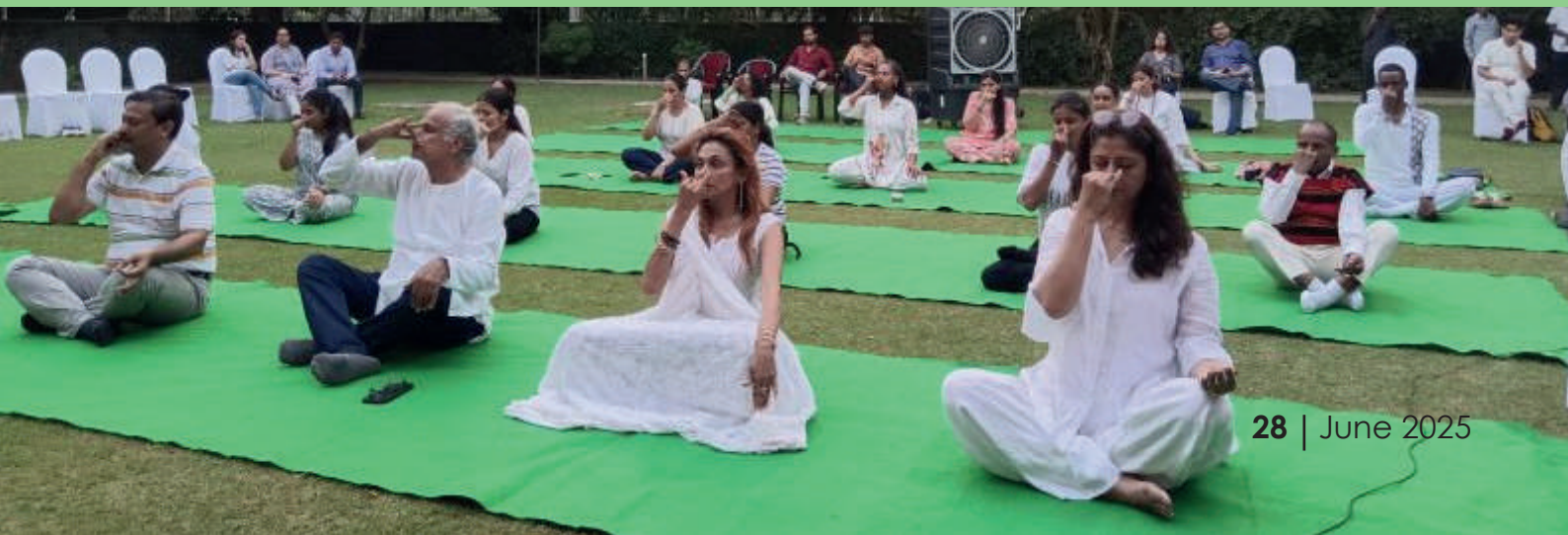
Mr. Jaison Chacko, Secretary General, FHRAI said, *“Yoga is not just about postures or routines. It is a quiet conversation with yourself and the world around you. Through Harit Yoga, we wanted to remind people that wellness begins with awareness—awareness of our breath, our choices, and the environment we share. As an association representing the hospitality industry, we believe our spaces should do more than just serve. They should support healing, reflection, and balance. Planting a tree or taking a mindful breath is a real act of connection with the world. That is what true hospitality means to us.”*

FHRAI, in collaboration with the Embassy of Ethiopia, supported by the Ministry of Ayush and MDNIY, organised Harit Yoga

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), in collaboration with the Embassy of Ethiopia and with support from the Ministry of AYUSH, organised a special edition of Harit Yoga at the Ethiopian Embassy in New Delhi. Titled Coffee and Harit Yoga, the event served as a serene prelude to the upcoming International Day of Yoga 2025, beautifully blending wellness, sustainability, and cross-cultural camaraderie.

Held in the peaceful lawns of the Embassy, the gathering began with a guided yoga session led by Mr. Lalit Madan, a certified trainer recognised by the Ministry of AYUSH. His calming and accessible session helped attendees connect deeply with their breath and body, creating a serene atmosphere for reflection.

Following the yoga practice, guests were treated to a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, renowned for its rich symbolism and warmth. This cultural ritual sparked engaging conversations around wellness tourism, sustainable living, and strengthening ties between India and Africa. With its gentle energy and thoughtful curation, Coffee and Harit Yoga was a perfect reminder that wellness and diplomacy go hand in hand on the path toward a more conscious and connected world.



IATO Announces New Leadership Team for 2025–27 Term

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has officially announced its newly elected Executive Committee for the term 2025–27 following an election held recently in New Delhi. Ravi Gosain has been elected as the new President, securing 263 votes. Joining him, Rajnish Kaistha was elected as Senior Vice President with 250 votes, while Sanjay Razdan won the position of Vice President with 253 votes. In other key roles, Sunil Mishra became the Honorary Secretary with 253 votes, Deepak Kumar Bhatnagar was elected Honorary Treasurer with 254 votes, and Viney Tyagi secured the position of Honorary Joint Secretary with 229 votes.



The elected Executive Committee (EC) Active Members include: Harish Mathur, Tony Marwah, Manoj Kumar Matta, Sehgal Jose, Rishi Kapoor

‘Karnataka Tourism Forum’ announces appointment of new Office Bearers

The Karnataka Tourism Forum (KTF), a key association representing stakeholders from across the travel, tourism, and hospitality sectors in the state, has announced its newly appointed office bearers for the upcoming term.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Patrick George, President of the newly elected President of KTF, said “I am deeply honoured to have been elected President of the Karnataka Tourism Forum. This is a pivotal time for our industry, and I look forward to working closely with our members, government bodies, and stakeholders to position Karnataka as a leading year-round tourism destination. Together, we aim to drive growth, foster

innovation, and enhance the global visibility of our diverse offerings—from heritage and nature to wellness and adventure.”

The newly appointed office bearers of the Karnataka Tourism Forum (2025 – 27) are: Mr. Patrick George (President), Mr. Vaibhav D Kamat (Vice President), Mr. Ganesh Basavaraj (Secretary), Ms. Vinutha Kiran (Joint Secretary), Mr. Vinay KN (Treasurer)

Core Committee Members: Mr. SN Krishna Chidambara, Mr. Prashanth BS, Mr. Arvind, Mr. Prashanth Shenoy, Mr. Dinesh SD, Mr. Sudhir KR, Mr. Ramesh Chandran

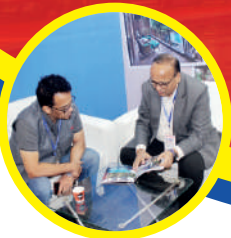




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Domestic

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (2025-26)

Outbound

AMRITSAR

06, 07, 08
SEPTEMBER, 2025

BHOPAL

04, 05, 06
OCTOBER, 2025

VARANASI

31 OCT, 01, 02
NOVEMBER, 2025

JAIPUR

14, 15, 16
NOVEMBER, 2025

JAMMU

22, 23, 24
NOVEMBER, 2025

LUCKNOW

07, 08, 09
DECEMBER, 2025

GOA

26, 27, 28
DECEMBER, 2025

AHMEDABAD

17, 18, 19
JANUARY, 2026

CHANDIGARH

14, 15, 16
FEBRUARY, 2026

DEHRADUN

13, 14, 15
MARCH, 2026

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Why Indian Travellers Are Choosing Israel

IMOT India's Ms Amruta Bangera Shares Insights

In a candid conversation with **Amruta Bangera, Director of Marketing, Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT) India**, Travel Mail explores the evolving preferences of Indian travellers and the ministry's targeted push to position Israel as a compelling destination. From the resurgence of pilgrimage tourism and the success of the new e-Visa program to fresh air routes and immersive experiences, IMOT is going beyond the spiritual narrative to tap into India's growing appetite for culture, cuisine, and adventure. Ms Bangera outlines how strategic collaborations, regional outreach, and influencer campaigns are paving the way for a dynamic 2025.

Surge in Indian Arrivals

We feel encouraged by the rising number of Indian travellers visiting Israel. From January to March 2025, we received 2,600 Indian tourists, with 1,100 arrivals in March alone. In 2024, 9,600 visitors from India arrived, and the momentum has continued into 2025. India currently ranks 11th globally and 1st in Asia in terms of inbound tourism to Israel.

This steady rise can be attributed to the return to normalcy, the resumption of Air India's direct flights between Delhi and Tel Aviv in March 2025, and our sustained outreach efforts. We have made consistent efforts to engage with both tier-I and tier-II Indian cities through participation in key trade shows like OTM Mumbai, and seminars in Kochi and Bengaluru ahead of the Jubilee Year celebrations. Pilgrimage travel continues to be a major driver, especially from Kerala, but there is growing interest in Israel's historical sites, vibrant culinary scene, coastal regions, and immersive cultural experiences.

Indian Traveller Preferences

Indian travellers to Israel represent a diverse demographic. While nearly half are pilgrims—especially from Kerala—we are also seeing a steady increase in leisure travellers, families, groups of friends, solo adventurers, and experiential travellers. The cities generating the highest interest include Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kochi, and Hyderabad.

Impact of E-Visa Launch

The launch of the e-Visa program for Indian citizens in January 2025 has already made a positive impact. Although the program is currently in its pilot phase, we have received hundreds of applications over the past couple of months, reflecting a strong interest and demand. The simplified process, particularly its integration with Israel's Entry Travel Authorization system, is designed to benefit families and independent travellers, especially from tier-2 markets. Once the pilot program is fully launched without technical issues, we plan to conduct roadshows to educate the travel trade and consumers to further streamline adoption.



Ms Amruta Bangera,
Director of Marketing
Israel Ministry of Tourism

Simplifying Visa Processes

Our priority is to make the visa application process simple and robust. Applicants must submit the relevant documents as listed in the checklist. We have introduced multiple pathways to make it easier for different types of travellers, including group visas for 10 or more travellers and e-Visa options with option to apply as a family member. There are Israel Visa Processing (IVP) Centres across India that help with document collection and submission support. These are authorized by the State of Israel and are located in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Kolkata. We also continue to update our official portal to reduce documentation requirements and speed up processing times.

Boost in Air Connectivity

Air connectivity plays a pivotal role in boosting tourism. The resumption of Air India's direct Delhi-Tel Aviv flight in March 2025 has been a strong enabler. In addition to this, we have excellent one-stop connections through carriers such as FlyDubai, Etihad, Ethiopian Airlines, Azerbaijan Airlines, and more. Several international airlines have resumed flights to Israel, reinforcing confidence in the destination's accessibility and safety. Ben Gurion Airport remains fully operational and well-connected to major tourist hubs like Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, and Galilee.

Direct Flight Expansion Plans

Yes, we are in active discussions with both Indian and regional airlines to explore the expansion of direct routes from cities like Mumbai and Bengaluru. This is a key focus for 2025, as we look to cater to increasing demand across multiple Indian regions.

Top Indian Source Markets

Kerala continues to lead, especially for pilgrimage travel. However, metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kochi, and Hyderabad are driving significant interest from leisure and FIT segments. Our seminars on Pilgrims of Hope and the Jubilee Year in Kochi and Bengaluru, along with strategic meetings with trade partners, have been instrumental in enhancing our reach in these regions.

Targeting New Traveller Segments

We are broadening our messaging beyond pilgrimage to appeal to millennial travellers, food lovers, luxury FITs, wellness seekers, and adventure enthusiasts. Campaigns now highlight offbeat and immersive experiences like stargazing in the Negev Desert, diving in Eilat, exploring the culinary landscape of Tel Aviv, and hiking in Masada. We are also incorporating new experiential verticals such as wellness escapes, sustainable travel, and kibbutz stays into our promotions.

Key Experiences for Indians

Indian travellers are seeking a mix of spiritual, cultural, and experiential journeys. Some of the top promoted experiences include Segway and walking tours of Jerusalem's Old City, culinary explorations in Tel Aviv and Haifa, stargazing in Ramon Crater, snorkelling and water sports in Eilat, and hiking in Masada National Park. Travellers can explore nature reserves like the Snir Stream Nature Reserve in the Galilee or the Negev Desert, known for its unique landscapes and biodiversity.

We are also spotlighting sustainable travel and authentic kibbutz experiences at Kibbutz Lotan to learn about kibbutz life, its unique social model, their sustainable farming and water conservation techniques. Wellness is a big part of our offering and one can enjoy a spa vacation in Ein Bokek located at the Dead Sea, and enjoy the therapeutic benefits of the mineral-rich waters and mud.

New Attractions in 2025

Yes, 2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Israeli tourism. Our focus includes expanding wellness travel, immersive desert stays, and food trails that combine culture with gastronomy. We're also developing experiential circuits that integrate faith, nature, and heritage. Signature annual events like the Jerusalem Film Festival, Red Sea Jazz Festival in Eilat, Tel Aviv Pride Week, and Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Marathons are a strong draw for Indian tourists.

Travel Trade Collaborations

We are going strong in 2025 with participation in key B2B events like OTM Mumbai and BLTM Delhi. The Jubilee Year 2025 presents a unique opportunity for believers to embark on a profound spiritual journey. To engage with faith-based travellers, we are hosting a series of seminars with Christian communities in Kochi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Guwahati. These events aim to inspire more pilgrims to visit Israel and further strengthen engagement with religious travellers.

Our seminars held in Kochi and Bengaluru have been very effective in connecting with trade partners as well. We are also planning a multi-city roadshow in July across Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, along with continued webinars and training sessions for our trade partners to continue this engagement. We are also working with EaseMyTrip to create travel itineraries for families and FITs, and influencer engagement campaign.

Our strategy also includes targeted PR activities, trade hosting, and influencer collaborations. Israel Ministry of Tourism also hosted 46 tour operators and 11 journalists from around the world at the International Mediterranean Tourism Market (IMTM), Tel Aviv in May this year. This initiative is part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to strengthen Israel's position as a leading global tourism destination and to showcase Israel as an open, safe, and welcoming country.

Media & FAM Trip Strategy

FAM trips remain a cornerstone of our promotional efforts. We will continue to host leading Indian journalists, bloggers, and influencers to showcase both popular and lesser-known destinations in Israel. These trips aim to highlight experiences in the Negev Desert, Golan Heights, Masada, Galilee, and beyond. Our most recent FAM in March 2025 received an overwhelmingly positive response and generated extensive media coverage, which we aim to build on throughout the year.



Exclusive Interview

Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director at BLS International

In an exclusive conversation with **Shikhar Aggarwal**, Joint Managing Director of BLS International, he shares his visionary outlook for the company as it continues to redefine global visa and consular services. With operations in over 60 countries, Aggarwal highlights BLS International's commitment to customer centricity, technological innovation, and strategic expansion. From deploying AI chatbots and facial biometrics to streamlining visa processes to forging strong partnerships with governments and diplomatic missions, the company is leveraging cutting-edge solutions to enhance efficiency and trust.

How would you define your core vision for the company's future? What leadership philosophies guide your approach to managing a global organisation like BLS International ?

The company's core vision is to deliver exceptional services that consistently exceed customer expectations and foster long-term satisfaction. We prioritise understanding and addressing the distinct needs of our clients and visa applicants. Customer-centricity is not just a principle for us; it is ingrained in our culture, evident in our personalised approach, swift responsiveness and ongoing enhancements informed by feedback and insights. The key philosophies guiding us is our commitment to consistently provide outstanding customer experiences, nurturing enduring partnerships grounded in trust, contentment and shared achievements. Through the implementation of clearly defined processes, our goal is to optimise service delivery and elevate the overall customer experience.

What are the biggest lessons you've learned while steering BLS International through rapid growth and global expansion ?

Over the last few years, BLS International has witnessed rapid growth and global expansion driven by both organic and inorganic routes. This extraordinary journey for BLS International is filled with valuable lessons that have shaped our strategy and vision for the company. Some of the key learnings include:

Adaptability: In a dynamic global market, the ability to adapt quickly to changing regulations, customer needs, and market conditions has been crucial. Our transition to a self-managed modes is a testament to this adaptability, enabling us to enhance efficiency across various aspects and profitability at the company level.

Strategic Acquisitions to drive future Growth: Acquisitions have been a cornerstone of our growth strategy. By integrating complementary businesses, such as iDATA, Citizenship Invest, and Aadifidelis, we've expanded our geographical reach and diversified our service offerings, creating new opportunities for stakeholders to create value.

Customer-Centric Approach: Understanding and addressing the unique needs of our clients and travellers across different regions has been instrumental in building trust and long-term relationships.

Resilience and Teamwork: Navigating challenges, such as the global pandemic, underscored the importance of resilience and the collective strength of our team. Together, we've turned obstacles into opportunities, emerging stronger and more focused.

As we continue to grow, these lessons remain at the heart of our strategy, guiding us toward a future of sustained success and innovation.

BLS International has been a key player in visa, passport, consular, and citizen services. How is the company leveraging technology to enhance these offerings?

Technology is central to BLS operations, and we have been constantly working on introducing path breaking technologies such as AI chatbots and facial biometrics to streamline end-to-end workflows from document verification to biometric authentication. This not only enhances efficiency but also reduces manual intervention, minimising errors and speeding up processing times. These AI-powered agents and chatbots provide instant, round-the-clock assistance to users and help them through each step in real time—via both voice and text. Such an approach ensures greater clarity, fewer rejections, and a more seamless experience overall. The entire process becomes accessible with just a few clicks, eliminating unnecessary complexities.

What role do AI and automation play in improving customer experience and service efficiency?

Our goal at BLS International is to use AI to revolutionise visa and consular services so that we can provide quality services to our clients with greater efficiency. These new generation tools allow companies to provide immediate, multilingual assistance for passport and visa enquiries. They also provide excellence assistance in preparing documentation and this results in significantly lower response time on their applications.

As a result, the whole process becomes more efficient. Besides increasing processing speed, these solutions also help strengthening system transparency and trust. Following the increased usage of automation, the streamlining of repetitive tasks, the need for large physical infrastructure and manual processing reduces significantly. This shift will allow organisations like ours to increase capacity and enhance service delivery without a linear increase in resources.

BLS International operates in over 60 countries. What strategies have helped build trust and credibility with foreign governments and missions?

The key strategy that have helped building trust and credibility is the company's efforts to set global standards by delivering excellent outsourced visa and passport services, front-end citizen services, consular and passport services, verification, and attestation services. Our expertise in handling administrative and non-judgmental interventions related to these services for diplomatic missions helped in winning their trust. It is good for them also as it enables them to concentrate more on visa application assessments.

Providing excellent process-driven services is at the core of our offerings. As the trend to outsource visa and consular services has been increasing, we are at the sweet spot to take advantage of it. Drawing upon our capabilities and expertise in the visa and consular services, we have expanded our businesses and operations to offer quality services to many foreign governments.

Can you share any upcoming initiatives that aim to ease the visa application process for Indian and international tourists?

At BLS International we are always focused on technology integration and is pioneering a suite of AI and digital technology-driven products specifically designed to redefine visa and consular services for client governments and customers. Moreover, with international travel rebounding strongly, we are effectively navigating the evolving landscape by expanding our service offerings, optimising operations, and strengthening partnerships with governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. The company's innovative approach and customer-centric solutions is played a key role in handling the increasing demand for visa and consular services and also helping Indian and foreign by streamlining the whole process.

What are your top priorities for BLS International over the next 2–3 years?

At BLS International, integrating technology to offer quality services is going to be our top priorities over the next 2-3 years. At our end, we are taking all sorts of measures to make visa processing smooth for the applicant. We are leveraging cutting-edge technologies to streamline visa processing, enhancing security and user experience. Going forward, our key priority is to further integrate upcoming technologies such as facial biometric verification with liveness detection in our operations. This will help the company to ensure secure identity confirmation via real-time video recording and advanced document verification.

Crafting Bespoke Journeys

Inside Brightsun's Vision for Luxury, Innovation & Responsible Travel



Mr. Deepak Nangla, Managing Director, Brightsun Travel

In a world where travellers increasingly seek meaningful, customised experiences, Brightsun Travel stands out as a leader in curating journeys that combine luxury, innovation, and purpose. At the helm is Mr. Deepak Nangla, whose strategic vision has guided the company's growth from a trusted travel service provider to a pioneer in personalised and sustainable travel experiences.

In this exclusive conversation, Mr. Nangla shares insights into Brightsun's unique approach to tailor-made itineraries, the launch and positioning of Premier by Brightsun, and the company's efforts to stay ahead of evolving traveller expectations. From embracing cutting-edge technology to expanding into new global markets and championing responsible tourism, Brightsun is setting new benchmarks in the modern travel landscape.

Brightsun is widely recognised for its bespoke travel services. How does your team curate personalised travel experiences tailored to the needs of diverse customer profiles?

At Brightsun, we specialise in creating personalised travel experiences that are carefully tailored to the individual needs, preferences, and aspirations of each client. Our team of expert travel advisors takes a consultative approach, investing time to understand what truly matters to our customers—whether it's comfort, convenience, luxury, or want to celebrate special milestones. From the initial planning stages to the final return home, we manage every detail with precision and care. This includes everything from selecting the most suitable flights and accommodations to arranging bespoke activities and special touches that elevate the overall experience.

Our goal is to deliver more than just a holiday – we aim to create seamless, meaningful journeys that leave a lasting impression. With a focus on exceptional service, personalisation, and attention to detail, we ensure every client feels supported and valued throughout their travel journey.

How has Brightsun's service model evolved over the years to meet the changing expectations of travellers across various segments?

Brightsun's service model has continually evolved to align with the shifting expectations of today's travellers. Post pandemic, we've seen a clear transformation in what people seek from travel – moving beyond traditional sightseeing to more meaningful, enriching experiences. Travellers across all segments now prioritise quality time, deeper cultural connections, and unique destinations that allow them to truly embrace life.

In response, we've adapted our approach to focus more on curating distinctive, purpose-driven journeys that reflect these values. Through Premier by Brightsun, we've expanded our offerings to include more immersive experiences that go off the beaten path, while maintaining our commitment to exceptional service and attention to detail.

What inspired the creation of 'Premier by Brightsun'? How does this luxury division differentiate itself from your core offerings?

Premier by Brightsun was launched in response to the growing demand for tailored, high-end travel experiences among high-net-worth individuals and corporate clients. We recognised the need for a specialised brand that would cater exclusively to the luxury segment—a brand built on the foundation of personalised service and meticulous attention to detail. Premier by Brightsun adds value to the portfolio of Brightsun Travel by further enhancing bespoke services. This includes curated holiday packages, exclusive access to luxury accommodations, premium flight bookings, and sophisticated business travel management – all handled by our expert team with an unwavering commitment to precision and discretion.

In your view, what are the key emerging trends in the luxury travel space, particularly among high-net-worth individuals and senior corporate travellers?

Luxury travel is constantly evolving, with high-net-worth individuals and senior corporate travellers increasingly seeking meaningful, immersive experiences over traditional luxury. There's a strong shift toward experiential travel that focuses on personal growth and cultural connection. Sustainability is also gaining importance, with eco-conscious choices becoming integral to luxury preferences.

Privacy and personalisation are key—clients favour bespoke itineraries, private accommodations, and seamless service that blends leisure with business needs. Wellness travel is on the rise, with tailored retreats and health-focused journeys growing in popularity. Additionally, there's a notable interest in off-the-beaten-path destinations that offer authenticity and exclusivity.

As technology continues to reshape the travel landscape, are there any digital tools, platforms, or AI powered innovations Brightsun is exploring to enhance customer experience?

We utilise advanced global distribution systems like Travelport and Amadeus to ensure real-time access to the most competitive flight options and seamless booking experiences. Our integration of APIs for hotels and other travel services allows us to offer a wide range of curated

options, tailored to individual client needs in a fast and efficient manner.

We are also actively exploring AI-powered innovations to further personalise and streamline our services. This includes the use of intelligent chatbots for 24/7 support and recommendation engines that suggest tailored itineraries based on individual behaviour and preferences.

As technology evolves, Brightsun remains committed to adopting smart, customer-centric solutions to deliver both convenience and a more customised, seamless travel experience.

What are your strategic plans for the future of Brightsun and Premier by Brightsun? Are there any new markets or service verticals you're aiming to explore?

Our strategic vision is focused on sustainable growth, market expansion, and deepening the personalised experiences we offer across all client segments. A key milestone in this journey has been the recent opening of our new office in Dubai, enabling us to better serve the growing demand in the Middle East and strengthen our presence in this dynamic market.

We are proud to have been recognised in the UK with the prestigious King's Award for Enterprise in International Trade, an achievement that reflects our significant growth and global reach. Currently, we sell worldwide flights and holidays with trade partnerships in over 21 countries, including the USA, China, India, and the Middle East, and we're actively exploring opportunities to expand into new markets across Asia and Africa.

Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in travel. How is Brightsun integrating responsible tourism practices into its operations or itineraries?

We are deeply committed to integrating responsible tourism practices into both our operations and client offerings. Sustainability is no longer a niche concern – it's a core expectation, and we're leading with a comprehensive approach.

We curate bespoke, eco-conscious travel experiences that not only meet the high standards of our clients but also support environmental preservation. For example, we offer exclusive eco-tourism options such as the Tim Ecological Tour in Brazil and luxury stays at Singita Grumeti in Tanzania – destinations that prioritise conservation and sustainable tourism practices.

Beyond travel products, we've taken meaningful steps internally to reduce our environmental impact. Over the past five years, we've cut our carbon footprint by nearly 40% through initiatives like reducing paper usage, adopting recyclable materials, and switching to energy-efficient lighting across all our offices.

Plan B's CEO on Sustainable Tourism, Hidden Gems, and Redefining Jordan Travel

In a region where ancient wonders meet modern aspirations, Rana Abu Alhala, CEO of Plan B Travel & Tourism, is redefining what it means to travel through Jordan. With a deep-rooted passion for immersive experiences and a firm commitment to responsible tourism, she has built Plan B into a standout brand that blends professionalism with heart. From promoting hidden heritage trails to embracing cutting-edge travel tech, Rana's leadership is guided by a singular vision—to craft journeys that connect people, cultures, and stories. In this exclusive interview, she shares the inspiration behind her company, the values that set it apart, and her hopes for the future of tourism in Jordan and beyond.



Rana Abu Alhala
CEO of Plan B Travel & Tourism

The Inspiration Behind Plan B Travel & Tourism

Travel has always been a passion of mine—not just the destinations, but the experience, the planning, and the memories it creates. When I founded Plan B Travel & Tourism, I wanted to bring a fresh, customer-first perspective to the industry in Jordan. I saw a gap in high-quality, all-encompassing travel services that were both personalized and professional. Many agencies focused on either corporate or leisure travel, but not both with equal excellence.

Over the years, our vision has grown from being a reliable travel partner to becoming a full-service travel management company. We now offer everything from leisure holidays to MICE, religious tourism, and bespoke experiences. At the heart of it all remains our core mission—to provide seamless, thoughtful, and high-quality travel solutions that reflect both global standards and local warmth.

What Sets Plan B Apart from Other Travel Companies

At Plan B Travel & Tourism, we pride ourselves on being more than just a travel agency—we are experienced curators. What sets us apart is our holistic, client-first approach that blends professionalism with personalization. Our in-house expertise spans holidays, ticketing, DMC services, pilgrimage, corporate travel, and visas—ensuring seamless, end-to-end solutions. We operate 24/7, offering clients real-time support and tailor-made itineraries that reflect both their preferences and our region's rich cultural tapestry. Sustainability is also core to our mission.

We champion responsible tourism by partnering with local communities and promoting eco-conscious travel experiences, especially within Jordan's hidden gems. Whether it's a pilgrimage or a luxury MICE tour, every journey is crafted with integrity, accuracy, and heart. In a region full of options, Plan B stands out because we don't just deliver a trip—we deliver a promise of service excellence and authentic, lasting memories.

Creating Authentic and Immersive Travel Experiences

At Plan B Travel & Tourism, we believe that true travel lies in connection with people, culture, and place. Crafting immersive experiences in Jordan means going beyond landmarks to curate stories that touch the heart. We work closely with local communities, artisans, and historians to ensure our guests don't just visit Jordan—they feel it. A recent example is our "Hidden Heritage of Um Qais" tour, where travelers engaged in olive harvesting with local farmers, followed by a home-cooked meal and a storytelling session with village elders. The experience was deeply moving for our clients, many of whom said it reshaped their understanding of Jordan.

Our goal is to create moments that linger long after the journey ends—authentic, soulful, and respectfully curated. It's this personalized approach that defines our work and keeps our guests coming back, not just for the sights, but for the human connections they make here.

Jordan's Hidden Gems Beyond Petra and Wadi Rum

While Petra and Wadi Rum rightfully steal the spotlight, Jordan is home to many lesser-known treasures that deserve global recognition. One such gem is Um Al-Rassas, a UNESCO World Heritage site with breathtaking Byzantine mosaics. Dana Biosphere Reserve is another hidden marvel—a sanctuary of biodiversity offering serene trails and eco-lodges for nature lovers. Um Qais, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, blends ancient Roman ruins with panoramic views that leave visitors awestruck. Mount Nebo and Madaba are deeply spiritual destinations with rich biblical heritage and world-renowned mosaics.

For those seeking adventure, the Mujib Biosphere Reserve offers dramatic canyoning experiences near the Dead Sea. These destinations showcase Jordan's diverse landscape and cultural depth. At Plan B Travel & Tourism, we're passionate about curating immersive experiences that go beyond the ordinary—because Jordan, in all its quiet corners, has stories waiting to be told.

Embracing Technology for Better Travel Experiences

At Plan B Travel, technology is at the core of how we enhance and personalize the traveller's journey. We've integrated advanced booking systems, real-time itinerary management, and AI-powered customer support tools to ensure our clients enjoy seamless service from planning to return. Our mobile-friendly platforms allow travellers to access bookings, visa updates, and destination guides anytime, anywhere. Internally, our CRM tools help our team provide prompt, tailored support—whether for a corporate client or a family on holiday.

We've also introduced digital payment options and virtual consultation services to increase convenience and flexibility. This tech-forward approach has streamlined our operations and, more importantly, elevated the customer experience—making travel not just simpler but more enjoyable. For us, it's not just about the destination; it's about crafting a journey that feels effortless, secure, and memorable at every step.

The Future of Tourism in Jordan: Challenges and Opportunities

Tourism in Jordan holds immense promise, but like any evolving industry, it faces both challenges and opportunities. Economically, we are optimistic—Jordan continues to position itself as a safe, culturally rich destination, especially post pandemic, with growing interest in immersive travel. However, geopolitical tensions in the broader region can influence traveler perceptions and demand ongoing diplomatic resilience.

Environmentally, the pressure is on to balance tourism growth with sustainability—preserving heritage sites and natural reserves like Wadi Al Mujib and Dana is crucial. This also opens opportunities for eco-tourism and responsible travel initiatives, which Plan B is deeply committed to. With strategic investment in digital transformation, community-based tourism, and regional partnerships, I believe Jordan can redefine its global tourism identity offering not just historical marvels like Petra or the Baptism Site, but a deeper, more meaningful travel experience.

Responsible Tourism: A Personal and Professional Commitment

“Responsible tourism, to me, means creating travel experiences that enrich both the traveler and the destination—socially, culturally, and environmentally. It's about ensuring that every journey we facilitate contributes positively to the local community, preserves heritage, and minimizes ecological impact. A particularly meaningful moment was our involvement in community-based tourism projects in rural Jordan, where we collaborated with local artisans and families to build authentic cultural encounters. Seeing travelers engage with real stories, crafts, and traditions while the hosts gained economic support and pride in sharing their culture—was incredibly fulfilling. It reminded me that tourism, when done thoughtfully, is a bridge between worlds.

At Plan B, we strive to uphold these values in every itinerary, encouraging our clients to travel with intention and respect. Responsible tourism isn't a trend, it's our commitment to shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future for global travel.

Travel Tips for Visiting Jordan Respectfully and Meaningfully

Jordan is a land of deep history, rich culture, and warm hospitality. To truly experience its magic, I encourage travelers to come with an open heart and a respectful curiosity. Dress modestly, especially when visiting religious or rural sites, and take time to engage with local communities. You'll find Jordanians are incredibly welcoming and proud to share their stories. Support local artisans, guides, and family-run establishments to ensure your travel has a positive impact. While iconic sites like Petra and Wadi Rum are a must, don't miss out on lesser-known gems like Um Al-Jimal or Dana Reserve, which offer a more intimate glimpse into Jordan's heritage.

Most importantly, travel with awareness—Jordan is not just a destination but a home for many. Responsible tourism helps preserve our culture and environment for future generations. At Plan B, we are always here to guide you in crafting a meaningful, respectful journey.

The Spirit of Goa Festival 2025

A Resounding Celebration of Goa's Distilling and Culinary Heritage



The Department of Tourism convened a press conference with the Director Tourism Shri Kedar Naik, General Manager, Marketing GTDC Shri Gavin Dias, Deputy General, Marketing and PRO Shri Deepak Narvekar, and Assistant Director, Department of Tourism Shri Jayesh Kankonkar for the Spirit of Goa Festival, which was held from 2nd to 4th May 2025 at the scenic SAG Grounds, Colva.

Director Tourism, Shri Kedar Naik stated *“The Spirit of Goa Festival is more than just a celebration – it is a tribute to Goa’s legacy of craftsmanship, innovation, and community spirit. By blending tradition with creativity, the festival presents a vibrant showcase of our rich heritage to the world. We are committed to strengthening such platforms that empower local artisans, distillers, and culinary talent, while also offering visitors an authentic taste of Goa’s evolving story.”*

The three-day event will showcase 40 stalls and a wide spectrum of locally distilled beverages – from the traditional and GI-tagged Cashew Feni, to innovative Feni infusions, premium gins, craft beers, and exotic spirits crafted from both imported and indigenous raw materials. Distillers will also present exciting new ventures in wines and agave-based spirits, highlighting the dynamic future of Goa’s beverage industry.

The festival will offer a rich culinary journey. Moving beyond coconut and cashew-based dishes, the food curation will embrace ingredients such as banana flower, kokum, raw jackfruit, Bimla (bimbli), and mango, bringing together authentic Saraswat, Konkani, and Christian cuisines, alongside contemporary Goan fusion creations. Innovative cocktail pairings will further enhance the gastronomic experience.

Festival goers can engage in a host of immersive activities, including masterclasses on traditional food preparation and mixology, a curated Feni Experience Centre featuring Goa’s top distillers, live demonstrations of Goan arts and crafts, vibrant photobooth with props and the lively cashew stomping sessions which will delight participants of all ages.

The entertainment setup will feature a world-class audio system by Coda (Germany), showcasing Goa’s local talent on a globally benchmarked stage.

The Spirit of Goa Festival continues to be a cornerstone in the Department of Tourism’s initiatives to promote Goa’s cultural, culinary, and artisanal heritage while supporting the state’s regenerative tourism vision.

Cultural curiosity is the new cool

Abu Dhabi plays host to Indian kids with a range of historical gems for them to discover

Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), surveyed kids aged between 5–12, revealing that 93% of Indian children want to participate in activities that help them make new friends. Among the top highlights of the research, was the insight that Indian kids are looking to explore different cultures beyond their own borders, making cultural curiosity the new thing among the younger generation.

With the data revealing interesting insights on young Indian travellers, DCT Abu Dhabi has collaborated with kids to co-create an exciting seven-day itinerary – by, kids for kids. The Kid-Recommended itinerary will comprise theme parks, museums, zoo visits, beach days, and plenty of other amazing locations in Abu Dhabi.



According to the study, an astounding figure of more than three in four Indian kids want to visit a museum on holiday. Today's generation of Indian children are also more inclined towards visiting food markets, exploring diverse cultures, and other similar factors. The results reveal:

- Food plays a significant role in driving young Indian travellers with over 90% of kids wanting to visit food markets, an opportunity to learn more about different cultures.
- As many as 96% want to visit water parks and play water sports, with these activities making holidays more adventurous and amusing.
- The trend continues with as many as 80% keen to visit grand places and 80% having interest in seeing how people live, as well as things to do like experiencing climbing lessons (79%) on holidays.

H.E. Nouf Mohamed Al-Bushlaibi, Executive Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications at DCT Abu Dhabi, said: “As both a parent and a marketer, I know firsthand how important it is to really listen to kids, to understand what lights them up, what sparks their imagination, and what makes a holiday unforgettable. We commissioned



this research to hear what truly matters to children when they look at holidays, and what they told us was inspiring: they want connection, adventure, and the freedom to play out the stories they love. Abu Dhabi brings all of that to life as a place where kids can dream big, try new things, and feel right at home doing it with their loved ones.”

Courtyard by Marriott Mumbai International Airport celebrates its 15th Anniversary

April 2025 marks a milestone month for Courtyard by Marriott Mumbai International Airport, as the hotel proudly celebrates 15 years of enabling guests to move forward with passion. Since opening its doors in 2010, the hotel has established itself as a flagship Courtyard by Marriott property in India. Nestled in the heart of the Andheri business district, just minutes from Mumbai International Airport, the hotel has consistently delivered thoughtful service, flexible spaces, and experiences that empower both business and leisure travellers to pursue their passions.

To commemorate this milestone, the hotel hosted a series of thoughtfully curated events. The celebrations featured a laughter-filled stand-up set by comic artist and performer Punit Pania, a soulful live band performance by The Lost Fireflies, and an energetic after-party at the in-house night club, ARK. Guests also enjoyed a special raffle draw, where exclusive gift vouchers were given away—adding an extra touch of excitement to an already memorable evening.

As the hotel moves forward into the future, it continues to reimagine experiences for the modern traveller. This includes the introduction of a new-age beverage scene in the heart of the city, crafted to reflect Mumbai's vibrant spirit and evolving tastes. The hotel has also launched a refreshed menu at Ummrao, blending thoughtful preparation with bold flavours. From wellness-inspired dishes to nostalgic comfort food and rich Maharashtrian delicacies, the all-day diner, MoMo Café is a meeting spot for travellers and the local community alike.

Courtyard by Marriott Mumbai International Airport continues to strengthen its role as a trusted venue for weddings and social gatherings. Under the Shaadi by Marriott Bonvoy umbrella, the hotel offers seamless, personalized celebrations that turn wedding dreams into reality.

With a legacy of 15 years behind it and a promising future ahead, the hotel remains committed to reimagining experiences, staying ahead of expectations, and moving forward with purpose in Mumbai's ever evolving hospitality landscape.



Reflecting on the hotel's journey and future goals, General Manager, Abhishek Sachdev shares his vision: "This property has been a key part of Mumbai's hospitality landscape for the past 15 years, and I see my role as one that enhances its legacy while steering it towards future growth. Consistency has been the cornerstone of this property's success, but innovation is what keeps guests engaged.

Our focus, therefore, is twofold: to deliver consistent, high-quality service that keeps the Marriott Bonvoy members returning to our refurbished rooms, and to introduce fresh, engaging experiences—particularly across food and beverage—with offerings that surprise and delight. It's this thoughtful approach we're excited to shape in the months ahead, always fueled by the same passion: to enable our guests to follow theirs."



GRT Hotels & Resorts Hosts Exclusive Meet in Delhi for Destination Management Companies

GRT Hotels & Resorts hosted a vibrant meet in the capital, bringing together key players from the fraternity for an evening of networking, knowledge sharing, and partnership building. The event witnessed participation from some of the most respected names in the industry, reinforcing GRT's commitment to strengthening its travel trade relationships across the country.



The gathering showcased GRT Hotels' expanding portfolio and innovative experiences across South India, with special emphasis on its award-winning resorts and urban escapes. Guests were also given exclusive updates on new offerings, signature experiences, and the brand's vision for the year ahead.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Vikram Cotah, CEO of GRT Hotels & Resorts, said: *"Our travel trade partners have been integral to our growth journey. Events like these allow us to reconnect, exchange ideas, and explore new possibilities together. At GRT Hotels & Resorts, we believe in creating not just stays but stories – and our partners help us take those stories far and wide."*

Amavi by Clarks: The Vacation Home for a New Way of Living

At a time when the idea of escape has become more essential than indulgent, Amavi by Clarks offers something quietly radical: second homes shaped by nature, guided by design, and softened by hospitality.

Rooted in the Latin word *amavi*, meaning "I loved," Amavi by Clarks was born from a belief that homes should do more than house us. They should ground us, slow us down, and make us feel. The brand builds in places the world hasn't rushed to. Yet each location remains meaningfully connected, offering a life of curated leisure, not isolation.

The journey begins with Mount Kusunur, a hilltop sanctuary in the Western Ghats just over two hours from Mumbai. Overlooking the Kusunur Valley and lake, it features private villas, panoramic views, and a clubhouse that brings together wellness, dining, and community. It's a place where time stretches and every detail feels quietly intentional.

Amavi by Clarks is part of The Clarks Hotels & Resorts Group and brings decades of experience into the private world of Leisure homes. More than operational strength, it's a shared philosophy. Of warmth without overstatement, and care that feels seamless by design. With a presence in over 110 destinations across two countries, Clarks strengthens the Amavi by Clarks vision: where living takes precedence over staying, and every moment is meaningfully composed.



Behind Amavi by Clarks is a leadership team united by clarity of thought and emotional intelligence. Sachin Agrawal, Founder and CEO, brings strategic depth shaped by two decades across Real Estate. Bajrang Bararia, Co-founder and COO, an IIM B Graduate, brings rigour and reliability with more than two decades of experience at Real Estate companies and Consulting firms.

Coming soon after Mount Kusunur is Amavi by Clarks at Lake Pawna, a lakeside retreat designed for slow mornings, long stays, and quiet celebration.

ITC HOTELS SIGNS WELCOMHOTEL BODHGAYA

ITC Hotels Limited (ITCHL) today announced the signing of a new Welcomhotel in Bodhgaya, Bihar with M/s. Kumar Infratrade Enterprises Private Limited. This further strengthens the presence of Brand Welcomhotel in another important pilgrim destination of India.

Spread across 18 acres, 'Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Bodhgaya' will feature 98 guest rooms along with two auditorium venues of 2,000 and 500 seating capacity. Additionally, the hotel will provide for 800 sqm of banqueting area. Among other facilities, the hotel will also showcase an all-day dining venue, a speciality restaurant, swimming pool and spa.

Anil Chadha, Managing Director, ITC Hotels said, "We are proud to announce the signing of 'Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Bodhgaya' in Bihar, a milestone that marks ITCHL's commitment to offering our signature hospitality in culturally rich destinations. Situated in the holy town of Bodhgaya, this property shall offer not only comfort but an immersive experience for travellers. With Bodhgaya's timeless serenity, ancient monasteries, and natural beauty, guests will find a perfect balance of peace and inspiration."

Manish Kumar, Director, Kumar Infratrade Enterprises Private Limited said, "We are excited to have entered



into agreement for Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Bodhgaya with ITC Hotels Limited. It is a matter of pride for us to develop this new hotel with the vision and support of the Government of Bihar. We are confident that Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Bodhgaya will play a pivotal role in elevating Bodhgaya's tourism and hospitality landscape."

Located 10 km from the Gaya ji International Airport, Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Bodhgaya will have excellent connectivity from the various areas of neighbouring Gaya ji and from the cities of Patna, Asansol, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Varanasi.

ITC HOTELS SIGNS WELCOMHOTEL VRINDAVAN



ITC Hotels Limited (ITCHL) today announced the signing of a new Welcomhotel in Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh with M/s. KD Greens, Mathura. This marks the entry of Brand Welcomhotel to an important market and further strengthens the ITCHL footprint in Uttar Pradesh with the existing six operating hotels offering 479 keys and more properties across brands in the pipeline.

Spread across 3 acres, 'Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Vrindavan' will feature 120 guest rooms along with large banqueting space, an all-day dining, a speciality restaurant, swimming pool, spa & kids club. Located 90 km from the Noida International Airport, on Delhi Agra Highway – NH-19, Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Vrindavan will have excellent connectivity from Delhi National Capital Region and the cities of Agra, Mathura and Lucknow.

Anil Chadha, Managing Director, ITC Hotels said, "India's pilgrimage tourism has witnessed a big upswing. Travellers are seeking meaning-driven journeys, spaces of reflection and connections with heritage and self. As the country witnesses a surge in domestic travel with cultural pride, spiritual destinations have become vibrant tourism hubs, driving footfall and economic opportunity across various cities and heritage sites. We recognise this growing demand. Welcomhotel Vrindavan shall reflect the legacy of this sacred town."

Narendra Kumar Agrawal, Partner, KD Greens said, "We are delighted to have entered into an agreement for Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Vrindavan with ITC Hotels Limited. We are confident this association will contribute to the growing landscape of the cities of Vrindavan and Mathura. Destinations such as Goverdhan, Barsana and Gokul also add to the charm of these cities, making the hotel an ideal choice for religious tourism and wedding destinations."

Celebrating 15 Years of Legacy: The Leela Palace New Delhi – A Testament to Timeless Grandeur

The Leela Palace New Delhi proudly commemorates its 15th anniversary, a significant milestone that marks its journey as a modern-day palace redefining luxury in the capital. Nestled in the heart of New Delhi's diplomatic enclave, the palace has, in just a decade and a half, become an representation of Indian hospitality—where timeless grandeur meets contemporary elegance. With its expansive rooms and suites, handpicked collection of art, and bespoke ceremonial rituals, the property embodies the spirit of The Leela—a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity, elevated by intuitive service and understated sophistication.

As the years have unfolded, The Leela Palace New Delhi has not only set benchmarks in hospitality but has also emerged as a vital cultural and culinary hub, collaborating with celebrated institutions such as the Jaipur Literature Festival, India Art Fair, India Couture Week as well as participating in the esteemed G20 Summit 2023. The hotel continues to host numerous Nobel laureates, global dignitaries, and international celebrities from all over the world.

Partnering with icons like Kailash Satyarthi, Manish Malhotra, Amaan & Ayaan Ali Bangash, Ricky Kej, Anoushka Shankar for immersive and meaningful events as well as experiences with celebrated chefs such as Massimo Bottura, Johanne Siy, Alain Passard, Daniel Humm, Himanshu Saini, Prateek Sadhu, Alain Ducasse and many others, has allowed the Palace to seamlessly weave itself into the capital's evolving narrative.

The hotel embraces contemporary sophistication while deeply respecting the traditions of Indian hospitality. Its generously appointed rooms and suites stand as testaments to unparalleled luxury, offering havens of comfort and style. The Leela Palace New Delhi is renowned for its diverse and exceptional culinary offerings and its commitment to genuine Indian service that resonates with guests worldwide, creating lasting memories. From the refined Indian flavours of Jamavar, to the modern Japanese artistry at MEGU, the lively global offerings at The Qube, the elegant old-world charm of The Library Bar, and the much-anticipated reopening of Le Cirque, the hotel's celebrated dining destinations continue to shape the capital's gastronomic narrative through immersive chef-led experiences, masterclasses, and innovative menus.

Its dedication extends beyond providing luxurious experiences. The Leela Palace New Delhi is deeply committed to responsible luxury, with its team actively participating in various community outreach programs and supporting impactful organizations such as the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, Shanti Avedna Sadan, Little Umbrella Foundation and more. Furthermore, sustainability is a core principle, demonstrated through initiatives like advanced waste recycling systems and the elimination of single-use plastics, are some key efforts that continue to earn the hotel the esteemed EDGE Advanced certification.



Reflecting on this landmark celebration, **Preeti Makhija, General Manager of The Leela Palace New Delhi** said *“Witnessing The Leela Palace New Delhi’s journey over the past decade and a half has been an incredible privilege. This anniversary is not just about celebrating a milestone, but about recognizing the countless individuals who have poured their hearts into creating an exceptional experience for our guests. We remain deeply committed to upholding the legacy of unparalleled hospitality and look forward to many more years of creating cherished memories.”*

As the hotel celebrates this significant milestone, its vision for the future remains steadfast: to continue building upon this strong foundation, offering world-class experiences that captivate the most discerning travellers. The highly anticipated reopening of Le Cirque within the palace, promising a reimaged and intimate fine dining experience, offers a glimpse into its exciting future endeavours. Ultimately, the enduring spirit of The Leela Palace New Delhi lies within the countless cherished moments created for its guests who hail from every corner of the world.

Club Mahindra Adds New Resorts in Andhra Pradesh, Abu Dhabi & Vietnam, Expanding its Domestic and Global Footprint

Club Mahindra has announced the addition of three new resorts to its portfolio. Continuing its focus on expansion, the brand marks its entry into Andhra Pradesh. Additionally, the brand has also strengthened its presence in Vietnam's Saigon region and Abu Dhabi through inventory partnerships with Richlane Residences and Holiday Inn, respectively. This expansion is aimed at providing members with access to diverse destinations and enriching vacation experiences.

Manoj Bhat, MD & CEO, Mahindra Holidays & Resorts India Limited, said, "Our new resort in Dindi marks our entry in the state and reinforces our commitment to boost tourism in Andhra Pradesh. RVR Dindi is the first in the series of our planned investments in the state. Additionally,

we continue to enhance our global footprint with our additions in Vietnam and Abu Dhabi. This expansion aligns with our strategic vision of doubling our room capacity to 10,000 by FY30. Our new offerings provide a seamless blend of comfort, adventure, and cultural immersion. We look forward to providing our members with more choices, elevating their holiday experiences, and creating unforgettable memories with Club Mahindra."

Each of these new additions offers a variety of world-class amenities, including indulgent dining options, rejuvenating spa services, and immersive cultural and adventure activities. From tranquil riverside relaxation to bustling cityscapes, these resorts are designed to deliver exceptional experiences for Club Mahindra members.



MEMENTOS BY ITC HOTELS EXPANDS PRESENCE IN WEST BENGAL

Anil Chadha, Managing Director, ITC Hotels, said, "The signing marks Mementos by ITC Hotels foray into Eastern India. Domestic tourism has been on the rise, with travellers wanting to experience destinations that offer unique immersive stays. This project will be a defining moment for hospitality, especially in the wedding segment for the eastern region."

Basant Berlia, Group Managing Director, LR Berlia Group, said, "We are excited to have signed Mementos by ITC Hotels Siliguri with ITC Hotels Limited. It is a matter of pride for us to develop this luxury resort in West Bengal. We are confident that this development will play a pivotal role in elevating the region's tourism and hospitality landscape."

ITC Hotels Limited (ITCHL) is set to expand its presence in West Bengal with the signing of a management agreement for 'Mementos by ITC Hotels Siliguri'. With this new luxury project, the portfolio of ITCHL in West Bengal now stands at 6 operating hotels and another 6 in various stages of development. Once open, all of these will collectively provide over 1540 keys across various brands at 12 locations in West Bengal.

Mementos by ITC Hotels Siliguri will feature 180 guest rooms, the signature Kaya Kalp Spa and a choice of dedicated banquet spaces, be it for meetings, exhibitions, conventions, celebrations or large weddings.

Located 15 km from the Bagdogra International Airport, Mementos by ITC Hotels Siliguri will have excellent connectivity from nearby cities of Darjeeling, Gangtok and Guwahati. The expansive resort will offer well-appointed guestrooms, an all-day dining, specialty restaurant, a bar, a pool bar & an experiential tea lounge.

ECKO HOTELS AND RESORTS LAUNCHES 100 KEYS IN UTTARAKHAND'S HARIDWAR, RISHIKESH AND TAPOVAN

ECKO Hotels & Resorts, a new age collection of hotels and resorts across India, offering a global touch with Indianness launched today with 100 keys in Devbhoomi Uttarakhand with three properties – ECKO Antarman Ganges, Haridwar, ECKO Rishikesh and ECKO Tapovan by the Ganges.

The word ECKO is inspired from Greek – Echo and represents echoing discerning guests' delight through excellent hospitality in an inimitable and relaxed environment.

ECKO Hotels and Resorts' brand philosophy is Individuality, where unique quirks and passions of guests and staff is celebrated, creating a space where everyone feels authentically themselves and Experiences their pigment, through immersive experiences that go beyond the typical tourist trail, connecting travelers with local artists, artisans, and hidden gems.

Community, ECKO believes is their canvas, where a sense of belonging is fostered through shared spaces, collaborative events, and opportunities for genuine interaction, whereas Sustainability is ECKO's shade as they strive to minimize environmental footprint and support local communities through responsible practices. ECKO Hotels & Resorts calls Technology their brush to enhance guest experience, streamline services, and connect travelers with the world around them.



Perkin Rocha – Founder & CEO stated, "We are excited to launch ECKO Hotels & Resorts in Devbhoomi – Uttarakhand first. It is a significant milestone for our brand, as Uttarakhand is one of the only states to offer spiritual, adventure and wellness tourism along with several national wildlife parks and scenic mountains. I am certain that our unique hotels in Haridwar, Tapovan and Rishikesh will delight guests with engaging unique dining, stay and bespoke experiences."

ECKO Hotels and Resorts focuses on not only key aspects like quality and service excellence at its properties but also each destination whether business, spiritual or leisure. Offering a relaxed and minimalist environment with premium amenities, ECKO Hotels and Resorts ensures guest comfort with simplified but excellent service and mindful menu choices. The hotels will focus on MICE and weddings in addition to spiritual tourism and corporate packages.



The brand's tagline – 'Living in the moment' suggests; whether in business, spirituality or at leisure one has to trust and live in that moment to completely experience it, something that guests will experience at ECKO Hotels and Resorts.

ECKO Antarman Ganges, Haridwar is a timeless hotel nestled on the banks of river Ganges overlooking the Shivalik hills. Tastefully done rooms with a perfect blend of old world design and modern-day comfort offer a serene retreat for guests. The property houses one of the largest private ghats in town, where resident guests can dip in and spend peaceful moments.

ECKO, Tapovan by the Ganges is a modern retreat situated in the lively Tapovan, near the banks of the holy Ganges with premium rooms and state of the art amenities, and a bouquet of food and beverage offering including a 24x7 bakery and pizzeria, an all day dining and rooftop pool, lounge and spa. ECKO, Rishikesh situated in the bustling city centre with state of art banquets and versatile meeting spaces will keep focus on corporate offsites and conventions, private gatherings, socials and contemporary weddings.

The chain's mission is to be a brand for the people who make and nurture it – its stakeholders, while its vision is to create a brand that is uncomplicated and resonates with its guests, as well as builds strong partnership with stakeholders.

ECKO Hotels & Resorts has a firm pipeline of properties in metros, growing suburbs and spiritual locations namely Delhi, Gurgaon, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Tirupati, Ranikhet, Vrindavan, Amritsar and Shirdi. Additionally, the brand has plans for exploring management prospects in international markets like South East A.

ROHL signs new property in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

Continuing on its growth momentum of portfolio extension, Royal Orchid Hotels Ltd. (ROHL) announced the signing of a new upscale lifestyle property in **Mussoorie in Uttarakhand**, one of India's most sought-after colonial hill stations and a thriving tourist hub.

Specifically designed to elevate the wedding and experiential tourism landscape of the region, the property is poised to offer an immersive experience to the visitors in lap of nature. With the addition of the new hotel, ROHL's footprint in Uttarakhand region will increase to 6 hotels.

Nestled among 7 acres with views across the Doon valley, this 70-key hotel will feature luxurious suites, multiple food & beverage option and various zones for weddings, conferences, and social gatherings both indoors and in its expansive lawns. The hotel will feature a functional wellness facility as well with swimming pools, spa areas and alternative therapy zones.

Speaking on the announcement, **Mr. Indresh Batra said**, "We're delighted to join forces with ROHL, a trusted brand that embodies our commitment to quality and excellence, given their new focus on experiential tourism."

Mussoorie, often referred to as the 'Queen of the Hills', attract a steady influx of domestic and international travellers, driven by its rich colonial heritage, thriving eco-tourism, and adventure activities. With increasing government initiatives supporting Uttarakhand's tourism and infrastructure development, the region is witnessing a surge in hospitality investments.



Commenting on the signing, CK Baljee, CMD of Royal Orchid Hotels Ltd. emphasised, "Our expansion into Uttarakhand couldn't have come at a better time, as the state is actively enhancing connectivity to remote areas and popular tourist spots. Recent initiatives, such as the Char Dham Road Project, new train services, and airport expansions, demonstrate the state's commitment to boosting pilgrimage and tourism."

"We're thrilled to contribute to the region's economic growth and tourism development, particularly in Mussoorie, a commercially significant city. Our second property in this city is poised to make a significant impact on the region's wedding and weekend getaway market, attracting global visitors and showcasing Uttarakhand's stunning natural beauty and rich cultural heritage." **He further added.**



RAFFLES SENTOSA SINGAPORE: WHERE EVERY DINING OCCASION IS A CELEBRATION

Raffles Sentosa Singapore, the country's first all-villa resort, sets a new standard of destination dining on Sentosa Island. Nestled within 100,000 square metres of lush tropical gardens, the resort is home to five distinctive dining venues, each helmed by chefs with Michelin credentials and elevated by the legendary Raffles service.

"We've crafted every dining moment to be an experience of discovery and delight," said **Bjoern Alexander, Cluster Director of Culinary at Raffles Sentosa Singapore and Sofitel Singapore Sentosa Resort & Spa.** *"We aim to blend the Raffles legacy with contemporary dining excellence, offering guests not only exceptional cuisine but also a personal connection to every meal."*

Whether dining al fresco, enjoying afternoon tea, or savouring a private meal in their villa, guests are invited to experience the art of celebration through exceptional cuisine, warm hospitality, and an unforgettable setting.

A Culinary Journey Rooted in Craft and Connection

At the heart of Raffles Sentosa Singapore's culinary offering is Empire Grill, the resort's signature modern Italian restaurant led by Chef Bjoern. Inspired by the spirit of conviviality and the rustic warmth of Tuscan cuisine, Empire Grill reimagines classic dishes with a refined, contemporary touch, complemented by a fine selection of premium wines. Overlooking the resort's tranquil pool and tropical gardens, the restaurant evokes a sense of laid-back elegance, blending nostalgic elements with modern culinary artistry. Here, wood-fired meats and seafood are grilled to perfection, while select dishes are theatrically finished tableside, offering guests an intimate, interactive dining experience.



"Empire Grill is about more than just flavour—it's about connection," said Chef Bjoern. "We bring a sense of theatre back to the table, with dishes prepared or finished right before our guests' eyes. It's a personal experience, and one that celebrates the timeless art of hospitality."

This attention to craft extends beyond technique to the careful sourcing of ingredients. From sustainably caught seafood to herbs grown in the resort's gardens, every element is selected with care, echoing the resort's commitment to provenance and sustainability.

Timeless Techniques, Refined Flavours

At Royal China, Executive Chinese Chef Ling Heng Yao presents a sophisticated interpretation of Cantonese cuisine, blending craftsmanship with subtle modern touches. Set in a dining room framed by floor-to-ceiling windows and surrounded by lush greenery, the experience is at once elegant and rooted in nature. Known for his meticulous technique and deep understanding of Cantonese culinary philosophy, Chef Ling believes that great cuisine begins with the ingredients. "Cantonese cooking is about balance and restraint," he shares. "It's about understanding the feel of each ingredient, how it transforms with heat, and how every element plays its part in harmony. While I honour tradition, I also like to introduce moments of surprise—just enough creativity to let the ingredients shine."

His menu reflects this philosophy. From delicate dim sum to signature dishes like the Peking Duck and double-boiled soups, each plate is a celebration of depth, texture, and purity of flavour. Locally and sustainably sourced produce is used wherever possible, continuing the resort's commitment to conscious dining. These are complemented by a fine selection of premium wines and a wide range of speciality tea, which have been curated to pair with the food. A choice of intimate private dining rooms makes Royal China a perfect setting for family celebrations, milestone moments, or discreet corporate entertaining.

An Exclusive Omakase Experience

For those seeking a more contemplative culinary journey, IYASAKA by Hashida offers a refined omakase experience led by celebrated Chef Kenjiro "Hatch" Hashida. Inspired by the spirited cheer heard at festive gatherings in Japan, IYASAKA by Hashida is a toast to joy, prosperity, and the enduring art of Japanese dining.

With only 12 seats available per service, the restaurant offers an exceptionally intimate setting, one that celebrates culture, craftsmanship, tradition and connection. Each dish, whether sushi crafted with artistry or seasonal delicacies prepared with reverence, invites guests to savour the moment. Thoughtful design, personalised service, and warm hospitality make IYASAKA by Hashida one of the most sought-after Japanese dining experiences on Sentosa Island.

Jungle Camps India Resorts see a surge in Astro Tourism and Night Safaris

Jungle Camps India (“JCI” or “The Company”), one of the leading experiential ecological hospitality groups in India is witnessing popularity for astro tourism and night safaris among travelers at its renowned forest resorts based in Kanha, Pench & Tadoba as these locations offer clear skies, low light interference, and natural surroundings.

Pench Tiger Reserve, recognized as the first certified Dark Sky Park of India, is drawing travelers seeking to view the night sky in its full glory. At Pench Jungle Camp, nearly 40% of guests in FY 2024–25 opted for stargazing and astronomy-focused sessions. Activities like astrophotography, guided star walks, and campfire gatherings are becoming part of JCI’s regular itinerary.

Alongside the night sky, the forests come alive after dusk. JCI’s night safaris in Kanha, Pench, and Tadoba offer a view into the tranquil and hidden side of the forests. The sounds of insects, rustling leaves, and the occasional call of a nocturnal animal accompany guests as they move through the wilderness with trained guides. Sightings of leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, owls, wild dogs, and porcupines add to the experience.

Mr Gajendra Singh Rathore, Managing Director of Jungle Camps India said, “*The shift towards astro tourism and night safaris shows a growing interest in travel experiences rooted in quiet observation and connection with the nature. We at Jungle Camps India are delighted to offer an escape into a slower, deeper rhythm of the forest.*

Our guests are increasingly drawn to experiences that offer quiet, open skies and the sounds of the forest at night. Stargazing and night safaris offer a different way to connect with nature and these moments, away from screens and city lights, are becoming a reason for them to travel to the jungle. We welcome all who seek calm, curiosity, and a closer bond with the natural world”

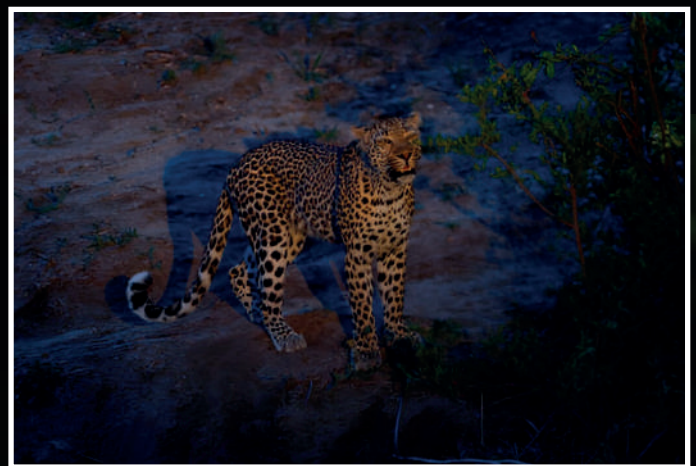
The night safaris are conducted under strict guidelines, ensuring safety, minimal disturbance to wildlife, and a truly immersive experience in the wilderness after dark. All the JCI’s night safaris are led by its experienced naturalists and local guides who understand the rhythms of the forest.

The rising trend of night safaris in India is driven by the growing popularity of noctourism, a travel movement focusing on exploring natural environments after dark. In 2025, over 50% of tourists are prioritizing trips to dark-sky zones, seeking not only wildlife encounters but also unpolluted views of the night sky, which enhances the overall wilderness experience.

Whereas, the global astro tourism market, valued at \$250 million in 2023, is projected to grow at a 10% CAGR, reaching \$400 million by 2030, with India emerging as a prime destination due to its natural dark sky reserves and growing infrastructure.

The Delhi-headquartered conservation-focused hospitality company currently operates award-winning properties located at Pench Tiger Reserve, Kanha Tiger Reserve and Rukhad Buffer Zone of Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh and Tadoba Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra. The company, along with its subsidiary companies, owns and manages 87 room accommodations, including tree houses, villas, cottages, safari tents, etc.

Besides the above, the company continues to explore opportunities for growth and expansion in its core wilderness lodges category, and is expanding its footprint in new hospitality segments





Decade of Discovery: Four Seasons Announces Private Jet Experience 2027 Itineraries with More Trips on the Horizon

Four Seasons announces the first four journeys in its 2027 collection of Private Jet Experience itineraries – Uncharted Discovery, Asia Unveiled, International Intrigue, and Timeless Encounters, introducing new destinations including Cartagena, Colombia and Tamarindo, Mexico alongside guest favourites such as the Serengeti, Antarctica, Paris, Tokyo, Bangkok and Dubai.

“For 10 years, the Four Seasons Private Jet Experience has redefined luxury travel, merging our ambitious spirit of innovation with deeply personal journeys that forge lasting connections with our guests,” says Marc Speichert, Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Four Seasons. “The Four Seasons Private Jet Experience continues to inspire and attract the world’s most discerning travellers, earning their trust and loyalty. With 100% of surveyed guests saying they would likely travel with us again and 2025 occupancy pacing ahead of last year, the excitement for our 2027 journeys speaks to the enduring power of personalized and thoughtfully curated experiences.”

From a private viewing of Michelangelo’s David to food adventures via Vespa in Vietnam, every moment is designed for immersive discovery. With only 48 travellers per departure, the Four Seasons Private Jet Experience offers a sense of community with like-minded explorers, unlocking unforgettable opportunities to travel deeper and farther.

Can’t wait till 2027?

A limited number of seats remain for the July 2025 departure of International Intrigue, as well as four 2026 itineraries, including:

Asia Unveiled – A 16-day, seven-stop culinary and cultural exploration

Timeless Encounters – The original Four Seasons around-the-world itinerary

Ancient Explorer – A journey through history, from Petra to Easter Island

World of Wellness – A 20-day, eight-destination Jet Journey, including properties in Maui, Taormina and Koh Samui

2027 Roster Takes Shape

Uncharted Discovery (January 20 – February 9, 2027), starting at USD 234,000 per person (based on double occupancy)

This enhanced journey now begins in Los Angeles to maximize ease of travel and jet lag recovery for east-to-west travellers. It introduces new stops in Tamarindo and Cartagena, along with access to Machu Picchu and an unforgettable Antarctic expedition. Embrace Costa Rica’s “pura vida” lifestyle at Four Seasons luxurious coastal retreat on the Papagayo Peninsula, a serene paradise of golden shores and tropical jungles.

Destinations include Los Angeles, Tamarindo, Machu Picchu, Buenos Aires, Antarctica, Cartagena and Costa Rica.

Asia Unveiled (February 11 – 26, 2027), starting at USD 167,000 per person (based on double occupancy)

Tailored for today’s time-conscious traveller, Asia Unveiled balances rich culinary encounters such as visiting Tokyo’s Tsukiji Outer Market with a Michelin-distinguished chef to handpick fresh ingredients for a sushi-making class, alongside cultural discoveries like creating a bonsai at the Shunkaen Bonsai Museum. The journey also offers moments of tranquillity on a private coral island in the Maldives. Travellers can raft Bali’s longest river, ascend the Tiger’s Nest Monastery and delve into Japan’s samurai traditions. Destinations include Tokyo, Bali, Angkor Wat, Hoi An, Bhutan, Maldives and Bangkok.

International Intrigue (March 3 – 23, 2027), starting at USD 230,000 per person (based on double occupancy)

International Intrigue spans multiple continents, remote island paradises, vibrant cultural capitals and the natural wonders of the African savannah. Experience a blessing ceremony at Kyoto’s iconic Fushimi Inasari Shrine, a sunset dolphin cruise in the Maldives, a guided tour through Morocco’s Atlas Mountains, and access to Florence’s Cathedral of Stana Maria del Fiore, including the ancient workshop where Michelangelo carved his renowned statue of David. Destinations include Seattle, Kyoto, Hoi An, Maldives, Serengeti, Marrakech, Florence and Paris.

Timeless Encounters (April 15 – May 6, 2027), starting at USD 235,000 per person (based on double occupancy)

A perennial favourite among repeat guests, this around-the-world experience combines iconic cities like London, Prague and Dubai with exclusive access to cultural treasures and global landmarks such as the Taj Mahal. Enjoy a tour of the Sydney Opera House and take in a breathtaking sunset from the 122nd floor of the world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa. Destinations include Kona, Bora Bora, Sydney, Bali, Chiang Mai, Dubai, Taj Mahal, Prague and London.

Luxury in Flight: The Four Seasons Private Jet Experience

At the heart of every journey is the custom-designed Airbus A321neo-LR, fully customized for the Four Seasons Private Jet Experience featuring one of the most spacious cabins in its class. Thoughtfully configured for just 48 guests, the aircraft offers an atmosphere of relaxed elegance. On board, a hand-selected team – including a dedicated Journey Concierge, Director of Guest Experience, Executive Chef and Journey Physician – ensures every moment before, during, and after the journey is seamlessly orchestrated with the brand’s signature service and attention to detail.

FUNDING FOR GRABS AS SYDNEY MEETINGS FUND EXTENDS IN INDIA

Understanding the cost pressures on event planners across the region, Sydney's specialist bidding expert Business Events Sydney has announced new funding is available for travel agents and meeting planners in India.

Applications to the new Sydney Meetings Fund (SMF) are open for a limited time and can be used to cover/offset an event's on-the-ground expenses in Sydney. Designed for smaller (75-250 person) corporate and incentive events, the funding support is accessible through BESydney's website.



BESydney Executive General Manager Client Engagement, Kristian Nicholls.

"Since the BESydney SMF opened, we have seen a number of event owners and organisers register and qualify for financial support for events in 2025. Sydney is the top market in Australia for India, and we look forward to welcoming corporate meetings and incentives from India. From feedback received following our 2023 India famit to Sydney we know delegates love the natural beauty and wildlife in Sydney as well as the adventure, sporting experiences and culinary offerings", said BESydney Executive General Manager Client Engagement, Kristian Nicholls.

"We cannot wait to share Sydney's fresh new story with agents and clients who will be inspired by the new luxury hotel landscape, exciting new attractions and experiences, not to mention the unique venues from super yachts to exclusive islands. Sydney has changed dramatically in recent years, and we look forward to sharing the city's fresh energy and evolving landscape," said Nicholls.

The independent and not-for-profit BESydney is also making it easier to book Sydney with planning tools, supplier connections and their experts' best tips on the latest hot new experiences, hotels and attractions to surprise, delight and inspire delegates. Planners with events larger than 250 delegates can also contact BESydney directly via this site.



Magnicity Partners with AVIAREPS India to Elevate Brand Visibility in Growing Indian Market

Magnicity, the global leader in panoramic and immersive city experiences, has appointed AVIAREPS India as its official Sales, Marketing, and PR representative to strengthen brand visibility and engagement in the Indian market. With India's outbound tourism projected to become the 5th largest globally by 2027, this partnership aims to strategically expand Magnicity's presence across key source cities in India.

Magnicity offers visitors more than just spectacular panoramic views. Alongside immersive storytelling and multi-sensory experiences, guests can also enjoy carefully curated culinary offerings that complement their journey through the city's culture, architecture, and history – creating unforgettable moments beyond the skyline.



Alexia Vettier, CEO of Magnicity, commented: *"We are excited to strengthen our presence in the Indian market, a country known for its vibrant and curious travellers. This collaboration marks the beginning of our expansion plans into Asia, and we look forward to welcoming more Indian visitors to our global locations."*

Ellona Pereira, General Manager, AVIAREPS India, added: *"We are delighted to represent Magnicity, a brand that transforms sightseeing into a storytelling journey. With India's deep-rooted appreciation for culture and immersive experiences, Magnicity's philosophy will truly resonate with Indian travellers, enhancing their journeys with unforgettable moments and unique perspectives at every destination."*

Celebrating its 50th anniversary last year, Magnicity – founded in France in 1974 – has expanded its global presence by utilizing iconic observation spaces atop towering landmarks. The brand now operates across 6 renowned sites: Paris Montparnasse Observatory in France, Berliner Fernsehturm in Germany, 360 Chicago in the USA, Euromast and Celest' in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Highline Warsaw coming up in 2025, Poland.

Through this partnership, AVIAREPS India will implement targeted sales initiatives, strategic media outreach, and industry collaborations to position Magnicity as a must-visit experience for Indian FIT and MICE travellers alike.



StarCruises Extends Hong Kong Summer Sailings Through Autumn, Now Sailing from 27 June to 14 November 2025



StarCruises announced at a press conference the much-anticipated homeport deployment of the Star Voyager cruise ship in Hong Kong, set to begin this summer on 27 June 2025. Star Voyager will set sail from the heart of the city, marking a major milestone in the brand's return to the region. Travellers can embark the Star Voyager directly from Hong Kong's Ocean Terminal, a centrally located departure point with excellent transportation links and close proximity to the city's top attractions and shopping districts.

The Star Voyager will offer 2, 3 and 5-night cruise options, whisking passengers away to the breathtaking destinations of Okinawa (Naha and Ishigaki) in Japan, as well as to Keelung, Kaohsiung and Penghu in Taiwan. The deployment from summer through autumn provides more vacation choices for Hong Kong residents and enhances the appeal of the Fly and Rail Cruise market. International travellers can enjoy the added convenience of a pre- or post-cruise stay in Hong Kong, making the city a prime gateway to an unforgettable cruise experience. One of the best ways to take in the dazzling Hong Kong skyline is from the deck of a cruise ship, offering an unparalleled view of the city's iconic nightscape. Additionally, the return of the popular 2-Night Weekend High Seas Cruise, departing every Friday, offers the perfect short escape for those seeking a relaxing sea-cation.

"Under the new StarCruises brand, we are thrilled to introduce our latest cruise ship, the Star Voyager, and to have her homeport in Hong Kong—a city with a long-standing history and strong connection to our brand," said **Mr. Michael Goh, President of StarDream Cruises.** *"With the support of the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Tourism Board, we are confident that we will invigorate the local cruise industry, boost the Fly cruise and Rail cruise sectors, and meet the growing demand for exciting summer vacations."*

Mr Dane Cheng, Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) Executive Director, said, *"We are excited to welcome the return of Star Cruises and the maiden homeport*

deployment of Star Voyager in Hong Kong. StarCruises is an established cruise brand in Asia's cruise market, cherished by many cruise travellers in Hong Kong and in the region. HKTB will continue to collaborate closely with StarCruises and other cruise lines to attract more visitors and drive the continuous development of Hong Kong as Asia's cruise hub."

Cruise Taiwan's Top Coastal Destinations

From 29 June to 13 August, the Star Voyager will set sail on a series of round-trip cruises to Taiwan on select departure dates. Choose between the 3 Night Kaohsiung–Penghu Cruise (departing Sundays) or the 2 Night Kaohsiung Cruise (departing Wednesdays). Taiwan's stunning coastal beauty awaits you! In Kaohsiung, the maritime capital of the south, visitors can enjoy a vibrant mix of contemporary art districts, historic temples, and lively markets. Meanwhile, the Penghu Islands beckon with serene beaches, crystal-clear waters, and charming heritage villages—perfect for those seeking an island retreat.

Onboard the Star Voyager: A Floating Paradise

Escape for a weekend aboard the Star Voyager, where the ship is the highlight. Enjoy luxury amenities, a variety of rooms, and Palace Suites with private facilities, 24/7 butler service, and personalized experiences. Onboard activities include water parks, rock climbing, ziplining, live shows, and more.

Enhance Your Hong Kong Getaway

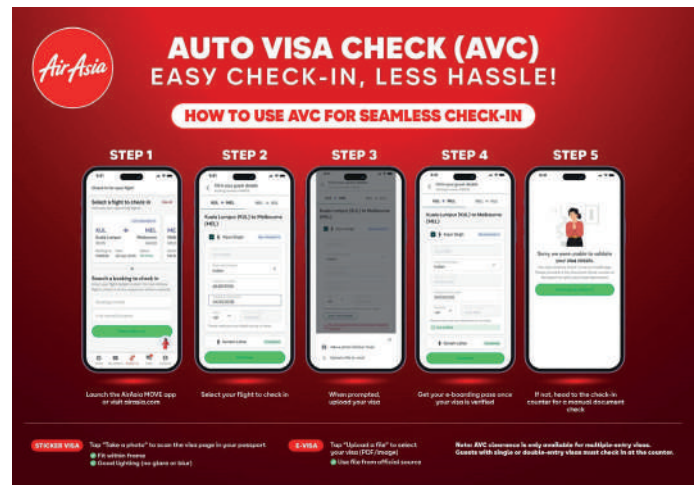
For those starting or ending their cruise in Hong Kong, make sure to explore the city's vibrant offerings. Take in the panoramic views from Victoria Peak, shop in the bustling streets of Mong Kok, or experience the rich cultural heritage at Wong Tai Sin Temple. For a more peaceful retreat, visit the serene Nan Lian Garden, or soak in the spectacular skyline from Victoria Harbour. Extend your adventure with a scenic cruise aboard the Star Voyager to Japan and Taiwan, making your Hong Kong vacation even more memorable.

AirAsia introduces Auto Visa Check feature for seamless online check-in

AirAsia has introduced a new Auto Visa Check (AVC) feature on the AirAsia MOVE app and airasia.com, enabling seamless online check-in for international routes that require a visa and Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA). This innovation is part of the airline's pioneering efforts to simplify the journey for millions of guests across the region by avoiding wait times and easing congestion at airport check-in counters. Until now, travellers flying to countries with visa requirements were required to check in or re-check in at the airport for manual visa verification.

With this innovative AVC feature, guests can verify their visa in real time during online check-in, up to 14 days and until one (1) hour before scheduled departure time, from the comfort of their home or while on the go.

For guests travelling with hand-carry luggage only, they may proceed directly to the boarding gate using their e-boarding pass (where applicable) or reprint their boarding pass at the self-service kiosk if needed. Guests with checked baggage may print their bag tags at the kiosk and drop their bags at the designated baggage drop counter.



Air New Zealand Unveils Bold New Uniform and Next-Generation Dreamliner A Dual Celebration of Culture, Creativity, and Innovation

Air New Zealand has marked a momentous new chapter in its 85-year journey, unveiling both a striking new uniform collection and the first of its fully redesigned 787-9 Dreamliners. These two milestones signal the airline's continued commitment to celebrating Aotearoa while delivering world-class innovation to customers around the globe.

Uniform Like No Other: A Celebration of Aotearoa

After much anticipation, Air New Zealand proudly reveals its brand-new uniform – a bold and meaningful expression of the airline's pride in Aotearoa and its unique cultural heritage. Designed by acclaimed New Zealand-born fashion designer Emilia Wickstead, with bespoke hand-painted prints from tā moko artist Te Rangitu Netana, the uniform marks a powerful new era of identity for Air New Zealand.

"For us, this is more than just a uniform; it is a celebration of our people, our culture, and our values. Air New Zealand has never been about standing still or blending in. As an airline, we are all about being bold, celebrating what makes us unique, and celebrating our team members. This new uniform encapsulates everything we stand for – a combination of innovation, rich cultural heritage, and a sense of pride and belonging."

From the flowing kōwhai-printed "Fine Print – Dress" to the versatile "Collective Thread – Shirt," every piece tells a story. Netana's Māori-inspired patterns reflect the land, sea, and spirit of New Zealand, while pieces like the le Faitaga, a traditional Pasifika garment, underscore the airline's commitment to cultural representation and inclusion. Worn by 6,000 Air New Zealanders globally, the new uniform will undergo in-flight and ground trials beginning May 2025, with full rollout across the airline in 2026.



Designer Emilia Wickstead says the Air New Zealand uniform was a passion project and one that she has always dreamed of working on. "Designing the Air New Zealand uniform has been an incredibly personal project for me. At the heart of it was a deep respect for the heritage and the unique identity of New Zealand's people and land. It was essential to me that this uniform tells a meaningful story about Aotearoa. I wanted to create a uniform that empowers individuals and inspires pride in all who wear it and see it. For me, good design should always evoke a sense of pride and occasion, and I believe this uniform will do just that."

From the fabric of uniforms to the contours of aircraft cabins, Air New Zealand continues to lead with bold ideas rooted in culture, creativity, and care. These innovations go beyond a simple refresh – they represent a purposeful step toward shaping the future of air travel, reflecting the airline's identity and its enduring commitment to connecting people with the spirit of Aotearoa, wherever they may be.



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Abhishek Goyal
Executive Director, Aeroprime Group

Aeroprime on IATA AGM 2025

Growth, Strategy, and India's Aviation Future

As the prestigious IATA Annual General Meeting 2025 starts in New Delhi from 1st to 3rd June, Aeroprime Group emerges as a pivotal voice in reshaping the aviation landscape. In this exclusive conversation with Mr. Abhishek Goyal, Executive Director of Aeroprime Group he shares how the company is strategically leveraging this platform to position India as a hub for innovation, sustainability, and digital transformation in aviation.

From the launch of Glid, a unified airline retailing platform, to Aeroprime's commitment to sustainability, strategic partnerships, and end-to-end aviation solutions, Mr. Goyal outlines the group's bold roadmap for the next five years. As a Bronze Sponsor of the IATA AGM 2025, Aeroprime's presence marks more than participation, it's a clear declaration of India's aviation ambition on the global stage.

1. Aeroprime Leverages IATA AGM in Delhi

Hosting the IATA AGM 2025 in Delhi is a landmark moment, not just for India but for the global aviation industry recognizing the country's pivotal role in its future, which is one of the world's fastest-growing markets. It further reaffirms India's emergence as a critical hub for innovation, talent, and investment in the aviation industry across the globe. For us at Aeroprime Group, it means a great deal to us as we see this as a valuable opportunity to actively engage with international airlines, especially those not yet operating in India.

We see it as a strategic opportunity to showcase the vast potential of the Indian market and demonstrate how Aeroprime can serve as a seamless, single-window partner for their entry. From regulatory approvals and market studies to route planning and distribution, we offer end-to-end solutions tailored to each airline's needs. Moreover, this platform allows us to engage directly with global aviation leaders, share insights, forge meaningful partnerships, and align our strategies with the overall industry to becoming a thought leader in the global aviation discourse.

2. Vision Behind Glid Platform

Glid was born out of a need to modernize and unify the fragmented airline retailing ecosystem to redefine how airlines and travel sellers connect, distribute, and retail in today's rapidly evolving aviation ecosystem. Glid is designed to simplify connectivity with a plug-and-play API that gives travel sellers instant access to multiple airline inventories, ancillaries, and real-time offers.

At the core of Glid is a commitment to solving a long-standing industry pain point: the high cost and inefficiency of traditional airline distribution. Today, distribution costs can consume a significant portion of an airline ticket's value. Glid provides a cost-efficient alternative by streamlining integrations, eliminating legacy complexities, and enabling airlines to connect directly with OTAs, consolidators, and TMCs. This not only



reduces distribution expenses but also gives airlines greater control over how their products are presented and sold.

On the airline side, Glid empowers carriers with greater control over how they distribute and merchandise their offerings. Airlines can showcase their full product portfolios—including ancillary services, bundled packages, and private fares—in a modern, interactive format. Real-time offer and order management means airlines can react swiftly to market dynamics, tailor offers to specific customer segments, and drive better yield.

Ultimately, Glid is more than a platform, it's a bridge. A bridge between the airline's product vision and the traveler's expectations. We believe this launch marks a pivotal step in enabling a more connected, efficient, and customer-centric future for air travel, not only in India, but globally.

3. India's Sustainability Role

Sustainability in aviation is no longer optional, it's imperative. Aeroprime supports a pragmatic and collaborative approach to the net-zero 2050 goal. As a technology and operations enabler, we aim to support airlines in reducing emissions through more efficient ground operations, digital transformation, and smart logistics.

In the Indian context, we advocate for accelerated public-private partnerships to invest in SAF infrastructure, promote innovation in green technologies and streamline regulatory frameworks.

4. Post-Pandemic Sector Priorities For Indian Aviation

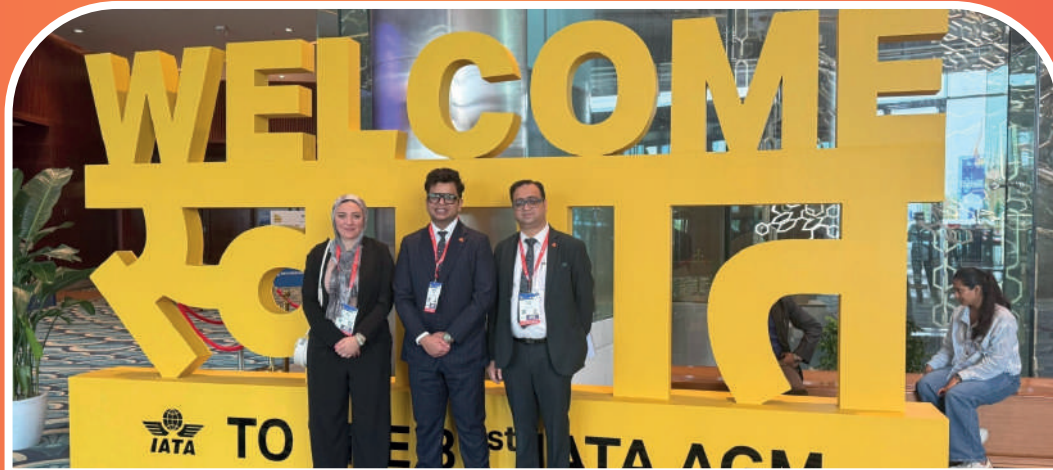
From Aeroprime's vantage point, the most pressing priorities for the Indian aviation sector in navigating the post-pandemic landscape, strengthening supply chain resilience, and workforce development include three core areas: rebuilding digital agility, rethinking supply networks, and workforce upskilling. The pandemic highlighted the need for adaptability and resilience.

For Indian aviation, this means embracing digital transformation to drive efficiency, flexibility, and real-time decision-making. Airlines, airports, and service providers must leverage data-driven tools to forecast demand, optimize fleet utilization, and manage disruptions better. We are actively supporting this shift by offering smarter, more responsive ground handling and airline services powered by technology.

Additionally, as India positions itself as a strategic cargo hub, especially for pharmaceuticals and e-commerce, cold-chain infrastructure and multimodal integration will be key. Aeroprime's cargo services are evolving to support this demand with efficient, tech-enabled solutions for both domestic and international carriers. India's aviation ecosystem especially in cargo relies heavily on a complex, global supply chain. The pandemic exposed vulnerabilities in everything from aircraft parts logistics to airport equipment availability. The sector's priority now is to diversify sourcing, localize critical components, and build agile logistics networks. We are working closely with partners to ensure end-to-end visibility, faster turnaround times, and flexible solutions that can withstand future shocks.

5. Bronze Sponsor at IATA AGM

As a proud Bronze Sponsor of the IATA AGM 2025 in New Delhi, we see this as a pivotal moment that reflects India's growing clout in the global aviation industry. We expect the event to drive meaningful dialogue on strengthening international airline collaboration and positioning India as a global hub for both passenger and cargo connectivity. With digital innovation at the heart of aviation's evolution, we look forward to discussions on unified retailing, seamless distribution, and technology-led efficiency. We also anticipate clear direction on sustainability goals, including SAF adoption and infrastructure development. Ultimately, we view the AGM as an opportunity to align on shared global priorities, forge strategic partnerships, and spotlight India's expanding role in shaping the future of aviation.



6. Connecting with Global Industry Leaders

We see this prestigious event as a strategic opportunity to engage with global aviation leaders on a meaningful level. With many international carriers exploring new markets, our focus will be on showcasing the vast and untapped potential of India's aviation landscape, particularly for airlines not yet operating in the country. We plan to showcase our integrated capabilities through curated interactions and on-site presentations.

This will include highlighting Aeroprime's end-to-end solutions alongside our latest innovation, Glid, the next-generation unified airline retailing platform. Our goal is for global carriers to see us as a trusted gateway to India. Engaging in strategic dialogues is another key priority. With decision-makers from international airlines, airport authorities, and aviation bodies present, we aim to have focused discussions around market entry strategies, distribution opportunities, and digital transformation, especially given India's rapidly expanding aviation landscape.

Finally, we recognise the importance of building relationships with global media and stakeholders. The AGM presents a valuable moment to tell the Aeroprime story and elevate our brand visibility and thought leadership through interactions with international media and aviation influencers. In essence, we view the IATA AGM as more than just a gathering; it's a gateway for Aeroprime Group to expand its global footprint, reinforce existing relationships, and forge new alliances that align with our long-term vision.

7. Aeroprime's 5-Year Strategy

Looking beyond the IATA AGM 2025, Aeroprime's strategic vision for the next 3 to 5 years focuses on sustainable growth, technological innovation, and deepening our footprint across the evolving Indian and regional aviation markets.

We aim to leverage cutting-edge technologies to enhance efficiency and deliver superior experiences for both airlines and travelers.

Our recently launched platform, Glid is a testament to exemplify this approach. Going forward, we plan to expand Glid's capabilities and onboard more airline partners to create a truly unified and intelligent distribution ecosystem. In addition, we are committed to expanding cargo and ground handling services to meet rising demand, especially as India emerges as a key cargo hub in the region. We will invest in scalable infrastructure, talent development, and operational excellence to ensure seamless, high-quality service delivery.

Finally, we see immense opportunity in strengthening international partnerships and collaborations. Aeroprime will continue to be a trusted gateway that bridges global innovation with local market expertise, driving growth, resilience, and value creation in the Indian market and beyond.

8. Aeroprime's Global Outreach Message

Aeroprime warmly welcomes the global aviation community to New Delhi for the IATA AGM 2025, a landmark event that reflects India's rising stature in global aviation and the industry's collective commitment to progress.

This is a pivotal moment. India is not just one of the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world, it is a booming landscape of opportunity, connectivity, and transformation. For global carriers, there has never been a better time to enter and expand in this market, and Aeroprime is here to support every step of that journey.

As a trusted partner to international airlines, we combine global expertise with deep local knowledge to deliver end-to-end support from regulatory approvals and market studies to distribution, retailing, and airport representation. Through our integrated solutions and innovations like Glid, we simplify complex processes, reduce distribution costs, and empower airlines to scale efficiently.

We invite global stakeholders to be part of the history that's being written in Indian aviation. Let's shape the future of the industry together, one defined by agility, innovation, and meaningful partnerships that span continents.



Air India Unveils ‘There is an Air About India’ Campaign to Celebrate the Spirit of a Rising Nation

Air India has unveiled a new campaign, ‘There is an Air About India’, a tribute to the new India that is bold, joyous, confident, and resoundingly vibrant. The campaign, which includes an OOH segment, print ads and a stunning digital film, captures the essence of a nation on the rise that Air India is proud to carry around the world.

Conceptualised and produced in partnership with creative agency McCann, the digital film’s centrepiece is the rap-style soundtrack composed by renowned music director Sneha Khanwalkar, with vocals by emerging rap artist Aarya Jadhao. The film blends rhythmic storytelling, sharp transitions, and stunning visuals, capturing the soul

of India, from bustling metros to remote heartlands.

Each beat and verse weaves together the diverse cultural fabric of India – its colours, cuisines, communities, and ambitions. From traditional performances and spiritual motifs to modern skylines and global aspirations, the narrative culminates in a powerful refrain, “There is an Air about India”, and that Air India is proud to carry it around the world.

After its return to the Tata group in 2022, Air India is in the middle of a five-year transformation – Vihaan.AI – to evolve into a world-class global airline that matches the aspirations of the new India.

AIR INDIA TO OPERATE NON-STOP FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND MANILA FROM 01 OCTOBER

Air India announced the launch of non-stop flights between Delhi and Manila, the capital city of the Philippines, starting 01 October 2025. With the launch of this new route, Air India becomes the only carrier to operate non-stop flights between India and the Philippines, offering seamless connectivity through its Delhi hub and boosting tourism, trade, and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Air India’s service to Manila will operate five days a week – on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays – using the airline’s Airbus A321neo aircraft, featuring a three-class cabin configuration that offers the choice of Business Class, Premium Economy Class, and Economy Class to travellers.

Campbell Wilson, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Air India, said, “The introduction of our Delhi-Manila route is yet another step in our mission to connect India with more of the world, non-stop. As outbound travel from India grows at an unprecedented pace, with Indian tourists ranking among the highest spenders globally, the new entry rules for Indian tourists are a shot in the arm to boost tourism to the Philippines.



We are happy to facilitate new opportunities for cultural exchange and economic collaboration between the two nations, while bringing the new Air India to more travellers around the world.”

Air India’s flight schedule to Manila ensures not only non-stop connectivity from India, but also seamless, one-stop connectivity from Europe via Delhi.

Air Canada ups economy travel game with its Premium Economy Class



Air Canada has raised the bar for international travel with its Premium Economy Class offering customers upgraded comforts and personalised service.

Available on flights between India and Canada, Air Canada's Premium Economy Class is tailored for travellers seeking an affordable and comfortable upgraded experience.

Air Canada's Premium Economy cabin features larger seats with greater recline and ample leg room, ensuring Air Canada's customers can stretch out and arrive at their destination well rested.

Customers travelling in Premium Economy on Air Canada will feel at home right from take-off, with the warm welcome of a cabin crew that is fluent in their language. Complimentary headsets tuned in to Air Canada's award-winning in-flight entertainment

featuring thousands of hours of Bollywood movies, USB charging ports with in-seat power and two additional check-in bags, are a few other perks of the Premium Economy Class.

Alongside the onboard offerings, Premium Economy customers receive a host of priority services at their departure airport, including priority boarding, check-in and baggage handling, creating a seamless and stress-free travel experience.

Indian passengers travelling in the Premium Economy can also enjoy an upgraded onboard menu, featuring fresh salad, warm bread, a choice of hot entrée, dessert, and a light meal or hot snack before landing on select routes.

Air Canada's Premium Economy Class is available on select Boeing 787 Dreamliners and Airbus A330 aircraft.



Arun Pandeya, Air Canada's General Manager for India said "Air Canada's Premium Economy experience has been designed to offer passengers a comfortable and upgraded journey to their destination. It is ideal for those wanting more space, comfort, and attention without going all the way to Business Class. With direct flights connecting major Indian cities to Toronto and Montréal, we are pleased to offer a travel class that delivers an exceptional experience, convenience and affordability."

Highlights of EgyptAir's 93rd Anniversary Celebration in the presence of H.E. Mr. Kamel Zayed Kamel Galal, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt



SriLankan Cargo Secures South Asia's First IATA Lithium Battery Certification

SriLankan Cargo, the air freight arm of SriLankan Airlines, has become South Asia's first airline cargo division to secure the prestigious CEIV Lithium Batteries Certification (Center of Excellence for Independent Validators – Lithium Batteries) from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), joining an elite group of global carriers and service providers to hold this coveted distinction. The certification, granted following a comprehensive and rigorous audit, stands as a testament to SriLankan Cargo's operational excellence in handling all categories of cargo, including sensitive lithium and sodium-ion battery shipments.

Chaminda Perera, Head of Cargo at SriLankan Airlines, commented on the achievement, stating, *"This certification marks a significant milestone for SriLankan Cargo, highlighting our ability to safely handle lithium and sodium-ion battery shipments, as well as battery-powered equipment. It also removes operational barriers in the air transport of these products, allowing us to capitalise on the growing e-commerce sector and unlock new revenue opportunities."*

Brendan Sullivan, IATA's Global Head of Cargo, said, *"As global shipments of lithium batteries continue to rise, ensuring their safe and efficient transport is more important than ever. IATA's CEIV Lithium Batteries program was created to enhance industry standards, promote best practices, and ensure compliance with regulations throughout the supply chain. We applaud SriLankan Cargo for achieving CEIV Lithium Battery certification. This milestone reinforces SriLankan Cargo's commitment to excellence in lithium battery transportation, giving customers even greater confidence in their service."*

The audit for the certification covered all aspects of the air freight lifecycle, including SriLankan Cargo's quality and safety management systems, personnel, training processes, documentation, infrastructure and equipment, customer management and operations, demonstrating that SriLankan Cargo is in top form to handle and transport lithium and sodium-ion batteries securely and safely.

The certification reinforces SriLankan Cargo's credibility with shippers and logistics partners by assuring them of compliant, efficient handling of lithium and sodium-ion battery shipments. It also positions SriLankan Cargo more competitively in the global supply chain for these batteries and battery-powered products, an ecosystem founded on rigorous standards, best practices and mutual trust among stakeholders. Such batteries are widely used to power a range of products from mobile phones and power tools to remote-control devices, travel accessories and toys.

The achievement is also expected to support Sri Lanka's import and export sectors, while enabling SriLankan Cargo to enhance revenue and efficiency, made possible by the improved workforce expertise and collaboration resulting from the certification.

SriLankan Cargo has been providing connectivity for shipments across the Middle East, Europe, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Far East and Australia, with an online network of over 30 destinations in 21 countries and an offline network that extends to hundreds more global cities. Leveraging on road and partner networks, SriLankan Cargo is able to provide customers the flexibility to move cargo beyond the points which SriLankan Airlines directly serves. With top-notch storage facilities and cargo handling equipment to manage customers every requirement, SriLankan Cargo is a one-stop solution for any type of consignment.



VIETNAM AIRLINES STRENGTHENS SOUTH INDIA PRESENCE WITH NEW NONSTOP FLIGHTS FROM HYDERABAD TO HANOI

Strengthening its footprint in the Indian market, Vietnam Airlines has officially launched direct flight services from Hyderabad to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam, starting 7th May 2025. This new route marks the airline's fourth gateway in India – following Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru, and reinforces its commitment to enhancing connectivity between India and Vietnam. The new nonstop service will operate three times a week, on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

To commemorate the inaugural flight, a celebratory event was held at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, featuring traditional welcome ceremonies and a ribbon-cutting to mark the

arrival of the maiden Vietnam Airlines flight. Passengers were greeted with souvenirs and a warm reception, showcasing the airline's signature hospitality.



Vietnam Airlines Enhances Mumbai-Hanoi Route with Boeing 787 and Airbus A350

Vietnam Airlines, the national carrier of Vietnam, proudly marked a new milestone today with the successful launch of its upgraded wide-body operations on the Mumbai-Hanoi route. The airline will now operate four weekly flights using the state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner and Airbus A350 aircraft, offering passengers a superior travel experience with enhanced comfort, cutting-edge

technology, and greater capacity.

The inaugural wide-body flight departed from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), Mumbai, amidst much fanfare, featuring a ceremonial cake-cutting ceremony and a warm welcome for passengers. Dignitaries, airport officials, and representatives from Vietnam Airlines and its India GSA, Aeroprime Group, were present to celebrate the occasion.



VIETNAM AIRLINES BEGINS DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM BENGALURU

Vietnam Airlines, the national carrier of Vietnam, operated its inaugural direct flight from Bengaluru, the Silicon Valley of India, to Hanoi today. The airline will operate four weekly flights from Bengaluru to Hanoi using the modern Airbus A321 aircraft, offering passengers a premium flying experience with comfortable seating, curated Indian meal options, modern cabin interiors, and world-renowned Vietnamese hospitality.

This launch makes Vietnam Airlines operational in three major metros in India – Delhi, Mumbai, and now Bengaluru, further enhancing its presence in the fast-growing South Indian market and marking a significant milestone in its India expansion strategy.

The inaugural ceremony at Kempegowda International Airport witnessed a lively celebration with a ceremonial cake cutting, attended by airport dignitaries, Vietnam Airlines representatives, and Aeroprime Group officials. Passengers also had

the opportunity to engage in various activities at the airport, including capturing memorable moments at designated photo spots and exploring the art installations that showcase the rich cultural heritage of Karnataka.



Vietjet Expands Asia Network with New Shanghai Route; Offering Greater Access for Travellers from India



Vietjet, Vietnam's leading new-age airline, has officially launched a new direct route between Hanoi and Shanghai, marking a significant addition to its growing international flight network. This new daily service is part of the airline's rapid expansion in China, including four new routes from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to both Beijing and Guangzhou.

Vietjet Vice President Nguyen Duc Thinh said: *"This new service reflects our continued commitment to providing travelers with more convenient and affordable flight options to Vietnam from key destinations around the world. With five new routes between Vietnam and China launched this year alone, we are steadily expanding our international presence and opening new horizons for global connectivity."*

To kick off the summer travel season, Vietjet will launch a one-day flash sale on May 5, offering 55% off Eco-class tickets (*) using the promo code SUPERSALE55, valid for travel between May 15 and November 30, 2025 (**). Customers who purchase tickets between now and May 18, 2025, will also receive VND100,000 (approx. INR 325) e-vouchers (***), which can be redeemed on their next booking. Additionally, Vietjet continues to offer tickets starting from INR11 plus taxes and fees (*) every Friday for international flights from India to Vietnam,

through its official website www.vietjetair.com and the Vietjet Air mobile app.

The new route to China is positioned as a convenient option for travellers heading to Shanghai and even to Beijing, Guangzhou, Xi'an, and Chengdu via Hanoi and/or Ho Chi Minh City, particularly for passengers from India. With Vietjet's expanding network and competitive fares, these routes offer greater flexibility and more seamless connections for Indian travellers from New Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi to Vietnam and across Asia-Pacific.

At the same time, Vietjet has strengthened its international flight network with the successful launch of non-stop services between Vietnam and Japan, connecting Ho Chi Minh City to Nagoya and Fukuoka. This expansion follows the introduction of direct flights from Hyderabad and Bengaluru to Ho Chi Minh City last month, along with four new China routes linking Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with Beijing and Guangzhou.

Vietnam remains a top destination in Southeast Asia, known for its safety, warm hospitality, and diverse cultural and natural attractions. As the airline continues to modernize its fleet and expand its international footprint, Vietjet reaffirms its position as one of Asia-Pacific's leading new-age carriers, making travel to Vietnam and beyond more accessible than ever.

Appointments

PATA Welcomes Three New Executive Board Members



The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) ratified the election at the 74th PATA Annual General Meeting (AGM), held during the PATA Annual Summit 2025 (PAS 2025) in Istanbul, Türkiye of two new Executive Board members: Dr. Chuwit Mitrohob, Deputy Director-General, Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration (DASTA), and Sharzede Datu Haji Salleh Askor, CEO, Sarawak Tourism Board (STB). Additionally, Raki Phillips, CEO, Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority (RAKTDA), has been appointed as an Executive Board member.

Dusit executive appointed President of the Thailand Incentive and Convention Association (TICA) – Reinforcing a commitment to industry excellence

Dusit International, one of Thailand's leading hotel and property development companies, is pleased to announce that Ms Prachoom Tantiprasertsuk, Vice President – Operations (Central & Southern Thailand) and Government & Business Relations, has been appointed President of the Thailand Incentive and Convention Association (TICA) for the 2025–2026 term. TICA, a non-profit organisation established in 1984, plays a vital role in promoting Thailand as a preferred destination for meetings, incentives, conventions, and exhibitions (MICE).



SKIL Appoints Vikash Kejriwal as CEO to Lead Its Next Phase of Innovation and Growth



SKIL, one of India's leading names in corporate travel, events, and mobility, has elevated Vikash Kejriwal as its new Chief Executive Officer. The appointment marks a significant milestone in SKIL's growth journey, placing a proven business builder and visionary leader at the helm of one of the country's most agile experience-driven companies.

Aparna Anand Appointed as Head of Sales at One Rep Global

One Rep Global, a leading name in luxury hospitality, is pleased to announce the appointment of Aparna Anand as Head of Sales. With a career spanning over a decade across luxury, lifestyle, and hospitality sectors, Aparna brings a unique blend of creativity, cultural fluency, and commercial acumen to her new role.



Anuj Chaudhry Appointed as General Manager at Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort



Courtyard by Marriott Aravali Resort is pleased to announce the appointment of Anuj Chaudhry as its new General Manager. With nearly two decades of experience in the hospitality industry, Anuj brings a wealth of strategic insight to the role and a proven track record of operational excellence, people-first leadership, and a guest-centric approach.

Sayaji Hotels Elevates Pawandeep Singh Mago to Director – Business Development

Sayaji Hotels, a trailblazer in Indian hospitality known for its signature "Yours Truly" service, is proud to announce the elevation of Mr. Pawandeep Singh Mago to the role of Director – Business Development. This strategic elevation reflects the Group's unwavering commitment to recognising and nurturing exceptional leadership, while empowering leaders who consistently demonstrate operational excellence and an unwavering dedication to Sayaji's values and vision.



Accor Appoints Zara Singh as Director of Revenue – India & South Asia



Accor is pleased to announce the appointment of Zara Singh as Director of Revenue – India & South Asia. With two decades of extensive experience in the hospitality industry, Zara will be responsible for leading Accor's revenue management and distribution strategy across India & South Asia, further strengthening the brand's commercial capabilities in the region.

Chalet Hotels appoints Industry Veteran Salil Khare as Chief Projects Officer

Chalet Hotels Limited (CHL) today announced the appointment of Mr. Salil Khare as Chief Projects Officer. In his new strategic role, Mr. Khare will lead the company's Projects, Design, and Architecture function and report to Mr. Shwetank Singh. He will be based at the company's corporate office in Mumbai.



Harpreet Kaur Bakshi appointed as Cluster Marketing Manager for Holiday Inn New Delhi and Holiday Inn Gurugram

Harpreet Kaur Bakshi has been appointed as the Cluster Marketing Manager for Holiday Inn New Delhi Mayur Vihar Noida and Holiday Inn Gurugram Sector 90. In her new role, she will spearhead marketing and communications strategies and will be responsible for integrating marketing and public relations strategies that align with the broader business goals of both the hotels.



Novotel Goa Resort & Spa and Novotel Goa Candolim appoints Ruby Parashar as Marketing & Communications Manager

Novotel Goa Resort & Spa and Novotel Goa Candolim, two iconic properties nestled in the heart of Goa, are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. Ruby Parashar as the Marketing and Communications Manager. This appointment marks a significant step in the hotel's strategy to bolster its leadership team and drive impactful communication initiatives.

Novotel Goa Resort & Spa and Novotel Goa Candolim Appoint Tanya Viegas as Director of Sales & Marketing

Novotel Goa Resort & Spa and Novotel Goa Candolim, two iconic properties nestled in the heart of Goa, are pleased to announce the appointment of Tanya Viegas as the Director of Sales & Marketing. In her new role, Tanya will be responsible for driving commercial strategy for the Novotel Candolim Complex, further strengthening their presence in the leisure and MICE segment. Her deep understanding of market dynamics, combined with a passion for delivering memorable guest experiences, makes her a valuable addition to the leadership team.



Udaipur Marriott Hotel Appoints Prashant Tripathi as Director of Sales and Marketing

Udaipur Marriott Hotel, the first hotel in Udaipur under the flagship Marriott Hotels brand, today announced the appointment of Prashant Tripathi as its Director of Sales and Marketing. With over 15 years of extensive experience in the hospitality sector, Tripathi brings strong commercial acumen, strategic vision, and people-centric leadership to the hotel's executive team.

Boutique Hotel Alhambra & The Historic Villas Welcomes New General Manager Lovorka Struna and Introduces the 2025 Season

Boutique Hotel Alhambra & The Historic Villas on Lošinj Island, Croatia, is proud to announce the appointment of Lovorka Struna as its new General Manager, marking the beginning of a fresh chapter for the 2025 season. A seasoned leader in luxury hospitality, Struna brings creativity, vision, and emotional intelligence to one of the Adriatic's most exquisite hideaways.



Pullman Chennai Anna Salai strengthens its leadership team as Vinodh Ramamurthy takes the helm as General Manager

Pullman Chennai Anna Salai is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Vinodh Ramamurthy as General Manager, effective April 2025. With over two decades of experience in the hospitality industry, Mr. Ramamurthy brings a wealth of operational excellence, strategic commercial acumen, and a proven track record of people-first leadership. His appointment marks a significant step in strengthening the hotel's position in the dynamic and evolving Chennai market.

Sun Siyam Iru Veli welcomes Shama Rashid as Assistant Public Relations and Communications Manager

Sun Siyam Iru Veli announces the appointment of Shama Rashid as Assistant Public Relations & Communications Manager. As a passionate and creative professional, Shama brings valuable experience in public relations, media engagement, and project management to her role at Sun Siyam Iru Veli. In this position, she will play an integral part in supporting the development and execution of impactful communication strategies, focusing on storytelling and media relations.



ECKO Hotels & Resorts Announces Ankit Upreti as Co-Founder

The modern hospitality company ECKO Hotels & Resorts, which combines Indianness with a global flair, is proud to announce Ankit Upreti as a co-founder. In addition to growing its presence throughout India, the brand reaffirms its dedication to providing outstanding guest experiences with this leadership addition.



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