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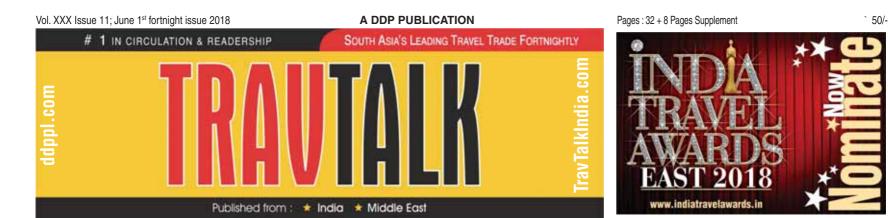
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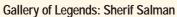
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## Maya glitters in South yet again







DDP Trailblazer: Ronald Colaco (received by his son, Nigel Colaco)



DDP Trailblazer: Vivek Kumar



DDP Game Changer: Raj Andrade



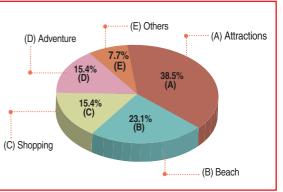
DDP Face of the Future: Nirupa Shankar

The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of India Travel Awards—South was held at Clarks Exotica Convention Resort and Spa, Bengaluru, amidst the stalwarts of the tourism industry. Chief Guest **Kumar Pushkar**, an IFS officer and Managing Director, Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation and **Anita Mishra**, Gladrags Mrs India Maharashtra 2018, presided over the ceremony. **Sherif Salman**, Chairman, Sherif Travel and Cargo Services, was conferred the Gallery of Legends trophy while **Raj Andrade**, Vice President—Business Development, Marketing and Strategy, Bengaluru International Airport, was DDP Game Changer. **Vivek Kumar**, Managing Director, Clarks Brij Hotels, Pride Hospitality and Brijrama Hospitality and **Ronald Colaco**, Owner, Clarks Exotica Convention Resorts and Spa, Bengaluru, bagged the DDP Trailblazer award. **Nirupa Shankar**, Director, Brigade hospitality was awarded the DDP Face of the Future title.

## Attractions rule the roost for Indians



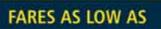
With travelling becoming a way of life, Indians seem to be upbeat about their summer plans. Interestingly, their holidays are mostly driven by attractions, according to a poll. Beaches followed suit, catching the fancy of approximately a good number of vacationers. Shopping and adventure were other travel factors, with 15.4 per cent each.







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## BULLETIN Cancel ticket free of charge

According to MoCA's draft passenger charter, cancellation charges won't be levied for air tickets. However, it has to be within 24 hours of booking and not less than 96 hours before boarding.

## **Y**Nisha Verma

Jayant Sinha, Minister of State, Civil Aviation unveiled the proposed Passenger Charter and Air Sewa along with Rajiv Nayan Choubey, Secretary, MoCA; Guruprasad Mohapatra, Chairman, AAI; B S Bhullar, Director General, DGCA; Satyendra Mishra, JS, MoCA; and Kumar Rajesh Chandra, DG, BCAS.

Under the Draft Passenger Charter, which defines the rights of passengers, Jayant Sinha revealed that there will be a 'lock-in' period of 24 hours post booking for passengers, allowing them to cancel or amend the ticket without any charges. However, he said that



Jayant Sinha Minister of State Civil Aviation

this waiver would not be eligible for a ticket booked 96 hours (4 days) before the departure of the flight. "Cancellation charges have been a major point of friction between airlines and passengers. The draft passenger charter has been released in the public domain for consultation and we want inputs from all stakeholders on this. We have tried to introduce with something that is passenger-friendly while protecting the airlines, thereby enabling passengers to ture, he will have to pay a cancellation charge."

Sinha also revealed that both domestic and international airlines can provide internet onboard in Indian airspace. According to Passenger Charter,

**Cancellation charges have been a** major point of friction between airlines and passengers. The draft passenger charter has been released in the public domain **7** 

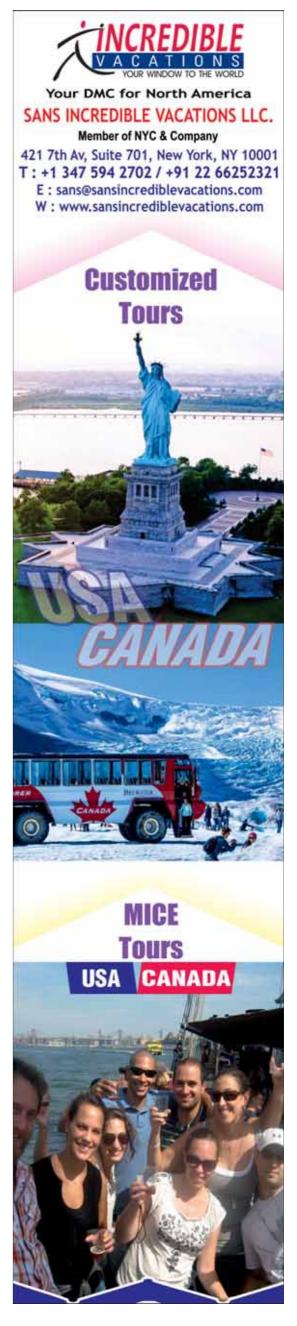
do a 24-hour lock-in for their reservation. During these 24 hours, they can change their reservation, route and name without incurring any charges. But once a passenger is within the four-day window of depar-

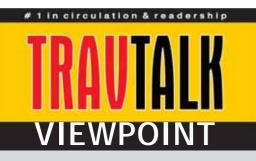
Wi-Fi services can be provided from the moment the plane takes off with personal electronic devices on flight mode. Mobile services can be allowed only when an aircraft is over an altitude of 3,000 metres.



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## Art of acquisitions

ccorHotels' recent acquisition of Swiss hotel Achain—Mövenpick Hotels, is only one of the many acquisitions that the French hospitality brand has done in the recent years. It was only a few years ago that they acquired FRHI Hotels and grabbed a big share of the luxury hotel segment. In fact, AccorHotels has spent more than 600 million euros (\$715.4 million) in the last four years on startups. According to reports, Accor is set to buy Chile's Atton Hotels, while it's already acquiring alternative accommodations provider, concierge service, and event specialist. The same agenda is visible in Marriott's acquisition of Starwood a couple of years ago, which now sees the two giants working together to provide customers a taste of their hospitality in every segment. In fact, in India, Marriott has already crossed the 100-hotel mark recently. Local brands like Sarovar Hotels & Resorts, which sold majority of its stakes to Louvre Hotels last year, is not too far behind. Even Australia-based StayWell hospitality was taken over by Japan's Prince Hotels recently. Not only do these acquisitions help to boost the brand portfolio, but also give them the right reach in various markets.

## Indians on attractions

Indians are aspirational travellers—especially, the middle class which is making sure to travel to all the popular destinations and ticking their sightseeing checklists. In fact, NTO representatives around the country vouch for Indian travellers to pack as many things in their itineraries as possible and leave no time to relax. Shopping, beach, adventure, and everything else comes after they are done with the major attractions of the place. It is after aspirational travel that Indians progress to experiences, which is the major buzzword for today, but this segment is more for the seasoned traveller than those who are visiting a destination for the first time. Hence, travel companies, while making sure to offer busy itineraries for the growing middle class in India, are also venturing into specially-crafted itineraries for experiential travellers. With demand for both these sectors growing, the current holiday season is sure to record high numbers.

Editorial Devika Jeet Nisha Verma Hazel Jain Ankita Saxen

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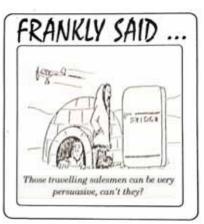
**TRAVTALK** brings to you news and events that made headlines 25 years ago with relevance even today. From the archives, we present the June 1993 issue:

FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Archana Airways takes to the skies

- Archana Airways started operations in May 1993 with its 17 seater L-410 Czech aircraft. The airline purchased four such aircraft.
- AK Bhartiya, Chairman of the airline, said that L-410 class aircraft was seen for the first time in this region and was perfect for extreme conditions in India
- He also said that it was not required for every airline to compete for routes with Indian Airlines (now Air India), as there are many places in the country that need flights.

Now



## Then aj Bajaj

An alumnus of Delhi College of Engineering, Raj Bajaj joined his family business, giving up his engineering career. In 1993, he was the Executive Director, Perfect Travels and today he is the President of Perfect Travels, Adventure World (India), Bajaj Indian Homestays & Hotels as well as The Luxury Trains of India.

Raj Bajaj

Then



Now

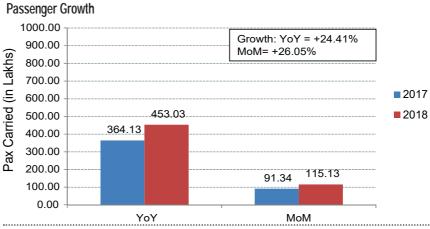


Prabhat Verma PureQuest Adventures (A division of Le Passage to India)

Prabhat Verma was appointed as Manager Tours- North India for UVI Holidays. Today, he drives the adventure & wildlife outfit for India's leading DMC, Le Passage to India as the Director of PureQuest Adventures.

## Domestic air traffic **1**24.41%

Domestic air traffic grows by 24.41 per cent from January-April YOY, according to a latest report by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The passenger load factor in the month of Apr 2018 has shown increasing trend compared to previous month primarily due to beginning of tourist season.



Passengers flown by domestic airlines in January-April stood at 453.03 lakhs over 364.13 lakhs in the corresponding period in 2017. The passenger traffic month-on-month has risen by 26% from 91.34 lakh in March 2018 to 115.13 lakhs in April 2018. According to the data, SpiceJet continues to have the highest Passenger Load Factor (PLF), 95.5%, followed by IndiGo with 91.9%. Go Air came in third with 89.5% and Vistara with 88% PLF.

Source: Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

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WILL Sprinked, published and eithed by Saulest on beh of DDP Publications Pvt. Ltd., printed at Super Cassette Industries Ltd., C-86, 86, 94, Sector-4, Noida, Disti-tutam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201301 and publish 72, Todarmal Road, New Delhi - 110 001 bi- 201.11.2274/1120

## **NTO**

# Morocco aims big for India

The North African country is the latest to enter India to attract its growing outbound traffic. It will soon set up a direct office in New Delhi and is in talks with airlines for improving connections.

Hazel Jain

Bordering the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, Morocco exudes 'exotic' for the average Indian traveller, and the Kingdom of Morocco will build its strategy on this perceived image, apart from culture and history. This was revealed by His Excellency Mohamed Maliki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, based in New Delhi

He also revealed that Morocco will soon be opening a tourism board office in New Delhi. "The new office was supposed to open in January this year but got delayed due to technical reasons. We will announce the office and the CEO who will head it soon." he said. He was in Mumbai to inaugurate the ninth visa application centre which is contracted to Cox & Kings Global Services. It also has visa application centres in Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata Ahmedabad, Pune, Goa, Indore and Bengaluru. Maliki hopes to open three more centres by 2018-end

Maliki added that the two countries had recently signed a bilateral agreement for aviation. "We are in talks with some Indian airlines for connections between India and Morocco and may even look at a direct connectivity. We are currently connected to India through a few Middle Eastern and European airlines," he said. Of course, the opening of a direct air service requires feasibility and profitability studies. Interestingly, Royal Air Maroc (RAM), the Moroccan national carrier, flies to nearby Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

These developments indicate a growing number of Indian tourists to Morocco. In 2017, the North African country welcomed about 22,000 Indian visitors. "We hope to double this number by 2019. We will



✤ Morocco is distinguished by its Arabian and European cultural influences. Its seat of government resides in Rabat but its economic capital is Casablanca

• We are currently in talks with some Indian airlines for better connections between India and Morocco and may even look at a direct connectivity if it makes sense to the airline

**NTERGLOBE** 

plan a strategy for the India market once we open our Moroccan National Tourist Office in Delhi," Maliki added.

One of the segments Morocco has been actively tapping is the Bollywood industry. Having facilitated the

shooting of big films, it will now offer incentives to production houses of up to 20 per cent in reimbursements of expenses of any production that exceeds 19 days of shooting and USD 1 million.



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# Rajasthan vies for the top spot

Rajasthan witnessed a robust tourism season last year with a total of 475.27 lakh tourist inflow in 2017. With the recent addition of Amber Fort as one of the 10 iconic sites, the state is developing tourism-related infrastructure at various destinations and undertaking illumination projects at various heritage monuments.

#### Ankita Saxena

n 2017, out of the total 475.27 lakh tourists, 16.10 lakh were international, registering a growth of 6.36 per cent while the remaining 459.17 were domestic tourists, registering a growth of 10.66 per cent in 2017 over 2016, informed Vasundhara Raje, Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan.

Raje pointed out that according to Vision 2020, the state had set a target to receive 50 million tourists in Rajasthan. Lauding the efforts of the state tourism department, she informed that with the support extended by the travel trade, the target is going to be met in 2018, two years in advance, since over 47 million tourists have already visited the state by the end of 2017

wards the support given by the Ministry of Tourism, Raje informed that the state received over `40 crores for Pushkar. `63 crore for Sambhal, over `100 crore for the Heritage Circuit, `93 crore for the Spiritual Circuit and `91 crore for the Krishna Circuit under various schemes of the Government of India. "I hope that the state will continue to receive the enormous support for three other proposed projects-Tiger Project, ecotourism and Desert Circuit. The success of the campaign-Jane Kya Dikh Jaye, is significant for the state as it triggered interest for the destination amongst domestic and international travellers and has resulted in the increase of footfalls of tourists in the state. With our progress, I believe the current figures are going to

Expressing gratitude to-



Vasundhara Raje Chief Minister Government of Rajasthan

**G**Jane Kya Dikh Jaye has resulted in the increase of footfalls of tourists



Subodh Agarwal Additional Chief Secretary— Tourism, Art & Culture, Government

**6** As of date, Jaipur airport operates 70 flights daily compared to 38 in 2015

jump, and Rajasthan will once again become the hub for tourism," said Raje. She lauded the announcement by the Government of India to add Amber Fort as one of the top iconic sites in India and hoped to develop similar destinations for tourists.

Subodh Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretary-Tourism, Art & Culture, Government of Rajasthan provided an update of the hospitality spectrum in the state. He informed that in 2017, the average hotel occupancy in Rajasthan grew to 65 per cent during 2016-17 as compared to 58.9 per cent during the year before that. He cited the increase in inventory as one of the reasons for this growth and pointed out that hotel inventory has grown by over 50 per cent in the past years.

He said, "Aircraft movement has grown by 35 per cent in Jaipur, 25 per cent in Jodhpur and 20 per cent in Udaipur. As of date, Jaipur airport operates 70 flights daily compared to 38 in 2015, which indicates that there is a strong demand for air travel, a key proxy to tourism. Flights from Tier-II and Tier-III cities are now operational with the Udan scheme while international carriers have recently started direct flights between Jaipur and Southeast Asian countries '

**STATES** 

## Niche Tourism

Raiasthan has added cultural tourism products like fairs and festivals to attract more tourists

+Illumination of monuments and night tourism are other initiatives

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(T

# Travel trade go Dutch!

The King's Day celebration in New Delhi recently brought together the Dutch and the Indian community to interact and enjoy a gala evening. The key tourism industry attendees shared the importance of such gatherings and the status of tourism between the two countries.

These events allow the two coun-

tries to come together to understand

thus boost relationships. We have seen

immense growth in numbers to The

Amsterdam remains the most popular

city. Indians usually combine two to three

Amsterdam a stop-over place before

## T Bureau



GIndian travellers to The Netherlands is on the rise, especially during the summer. The Embassy of The Kingdom of Netherlands in India should speed-up the visa processing to allow more number of travellers to visit the country. Self-drives have become very popular and the tourism board should conduct more training programmes with travel agents to educate them about activities that can be done in and around The Netherlands. 55



An annual event like this helps industry partners to have one-to-one interaction with the gathering to understand the right partners for business. Amsetrdam is the most popular destination amongst Indian travellers, but there is a shift in the segment of travel. Earlier, it was assumed that only younger travellers visited the destination for parties but now families and women groups have started to travel for Tulip Festival and other activities.



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Riaz Munshi Managing Director N Chirag Travels

transiting to other destinations. The canal cruises, sightseeing and miniature world are popular attractions among Indians.

The relations between The Netherlands and India have been quite strong for years now. The numbers from India to the destination are on an upswing. With more flights coming in from Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru, I feel that soon it will become a destination by itself rather than be a stopover point for travellers. There is a lot more to do in The Netherlands than just one city. It is a good getaway for families and to take a relaxed holiday.



Honorary Consul Kingdom of the Netherlands

An event like this really strengthens the ties between the two communities-the Dutch and the Indian diasporas. I think the traffic to The Netherlands from India has grown nearly 30 per cent. In fact, the demand to stay longer in The Netherlands is on the rise. The delegation from the country not only boosted the relations between India and The Netherlands but also pushed tourism between the two countries.

Kavita Joshi

Head—North India Jet Airways



QUICKBYTES

The event is getting better year-on-year

because of the strengthened ties between

the two countries. We had very good con-

nections between India and Amsterdam

once we moved our hub from Brussels

to Amsterdam two years ago. We are wit-

nessing an increase in demand from India

to not only Amsterdam but also beyond

to other destinations in Europe, the US

and Canada. None of our staff can get on

to the flights despite having free tickets

since they are chock-a-blocked.

Ranjana Sharma Managing Director Trav n Tours International

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## Exclusivity of private tours | Delhi-Iceland at `13,499

Globus has launched a new style of travel-Globus Private Touring, allowing travel agents to convert any Globus Europe vacation to a private tour.

## T Bureau

Iobus Private Touring aims G to offer the expertise of the world's largest escorted touring company yet allows operating tours exclusively for a smaller number of travellers without having to share the coach with others. Varesh Chopra, Regional Director-South Asia and Middle East, Globus, explains, "Travellers can enjoy a more intimate European vacation with all values one expects from a Globus tour. They are different from Indian private tours as the travellers will have their own dedicated international tour director, their own private transportation, driver and professional local guides." Every private tour includes all visits and VIP access to popular attractions as outlined in the original published Globus itinerary.



Varesh Chopra Regional Director-South Asia and Middle East, Globus

Chopra further explains that private tour offers greater flexibility in pace and experience. The company is targeting families and friends who would like to travel exclusively and not with a larger group. He elaborates that travel agents can convert any Globus European vacation to a private touring experience. "One has to simply

choose a tour from Globus Europe portfolio then let us know that you're interested in booking a Private Tour along with the number of travellers. An additional premium, based on the overall number of travellers is charged for each traveller on top of the published tour price," he says

The company incentivises its travel partners by way of offering commissions on sales of any Globus Private Touring vacation.

## **Greater** Flexibility

The company is targeting families and friends who would like to travel exclusively. Travel agents can convert any Globus European vacation to a private touring experience

WOW air has launched its operations in India with an inaugural fare of `13,499 from New Delhi to Keflavik airport, and further to Europe and North America.

## 🚺 TT Bureau

Wow air was launched in In-dia recently at a grand ceremony, where Skúli Mogensen, Chief Executive Officer and founder of WOW air, announced its inaugural flights from Delhi to Keflavik airport in Iceland at 13,499. The five times a week flight will start operating from December 7, 2018.

"Our launch is in sync with India's aviation growth story and we look forward to being part of it with our very affordable fares to North America and Europe on board brand new Airbus A330neos. WOW air also plans to add more flights to India in the future," said Mogensen. The fare would vary for different classes, i.e., WOW basic, WOW plus, WOW comfy & WOW premium. Mogensen added that those who fly WOW



Chief Executive Officer and founder of WOW air

air can also break-up their long haul transatlantic trip and relish the scenic beauty of Iceland on their way. "India is our first market in Asia and we see a great opportunity here. The flight path from India to North America is superior to any other market from this region. Our load factors are over 90 per cent globally and we hope to repeat in India as well. Wherever we go, we happen to stimulate the market with our prices," revealed Mogensen.

**AGENTS** 

For distribution in the India market, Mogensen added, "We have promised to offer the

## **66** The flight path from India, our first Asia market, to North America is superior to any other market from this region

cheapest fare on our website. Locally, we are working with the BIRD group for distribution. However, I would expect primary sales channel would still be online." 🐓



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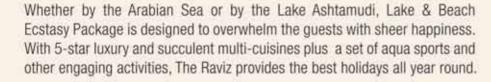
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The Raviz Resort & Spa Ashtamudi, Thevally PO, Kollam, Kerala, India

# Indian food is Sun Siyam's priority

In order to cater to Indian guests in every way, Sun Siyam can not only offer vegetarian and Jain meals at all its properties but also has tailored packages for families that include free stay for 2 children under 15.

## TT Bureau

Food is a number one pri-ority for Indians travelling anywhere and the Sun Siyam Resorts understands this basic need; hence the addition of Indian cuisine to its properties. Zulaikha Manik, Executive Director, Sun Siyam Resorts, says, "Food tops our list apart from plenty of other things one can do at the resorts. The Sun Siyam Iru Fushi Maldives, our five-star luxury property, offers the largest selection in F&B including an Indian restaurant, Taste of India. Indian menu is available at the a la carte restaurants at all our properties. We see the demand and tailor our services to cater to the changing needs."

The idea was to maintain authenticity for its Indian guests. The presence of Indian chefs in all its properties has



Zulaikha Manik Executive Director Sun Siyam Resorts

garnered positive response not just from its Indian guests but from guests all over the world. "We know that food is an important element for Indians. We make sure that we have the ability to tailor special dietary requirements like Jain and vegetarian food for our Indian guests. Moreover, we have also introduced Indian-themed buffet once a week at restaurants in all our properties," Manik adds.

#### New properties

The group is also busy launching new properties this year. Its Sun Aqua Iru Veli will open in October 2018, a new concept for its high-end clients. The villas are decorated in a mix of tropical island style with a diverse modern infusion and stateof-the-art modern facilities. "The distinct property has five restaurants with bars that present a world of culinary choice. We also offer an Indian food menu for those who want to enjoy Indian dishes," Manik reveals.

Luxury aside, Sun Aqua Iru Veli will introduce private pools in all the rooms, which will total 125. However, the main highlight will be the Sun Aqua Signature meal plan, the most comprehensive premium all inclusive – from

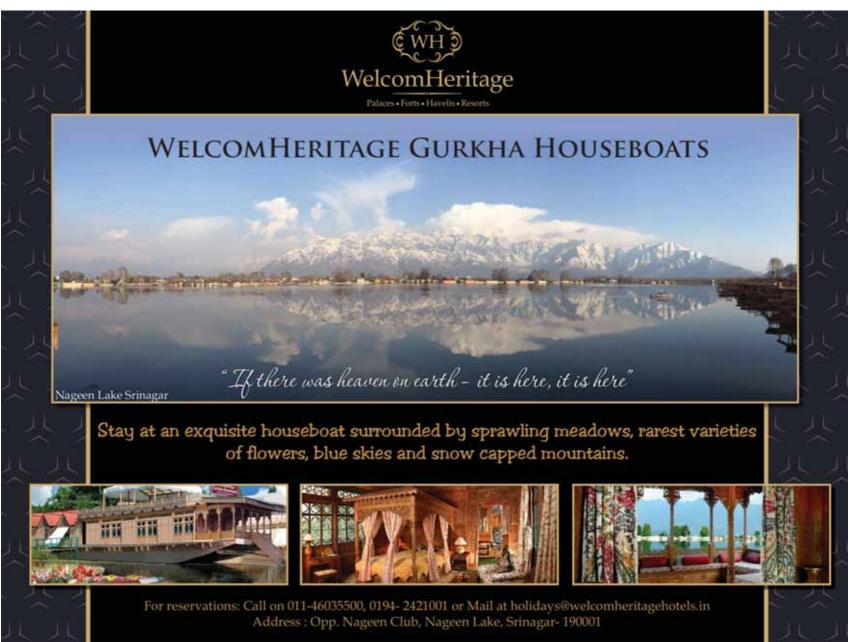


champagne breakfast, dine around, daily shisha per room, selection of water sports and excursions.

The group will also make additions to its existing property – the Olhuveli Beach & Spa Maldives – which will get some new room categories and facilities in the last quarter of 2018. This will include water villas with pools, additional service facilities, over water spa and a world-class MiCE centre.

Manik adds, "Maldives is only a short flight away from India and is not merely a beach destination but a place for total relaxation. Guests can be pampered at the awardwinning spas at our properties. We offer treatments ranging from ayurveda to Balinese to Thai, all customised to suit the personal needs and choices of our guests. Our guests can enjoy a spa credit of USD 100 per person, per day for a holistic treatment of their choice, available under our Extreme All Inclusive plan."

**AGENTS** 





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## **TECHNOLOGY** Amadeus brings ACUS to India

The launch of Amadeus Airport Common Use Service (ACUS) will mean airports in India can offer a futuristic, more efficient and convenient check-in service as the number of international and domestic travellers increases.



A madeus introduced the A 'Airport Common Use Service' (ACUS) to key stakeholders in the Indian aviation industry at India's first Common Use Roundtable, an event hosted by Amadeus and Bird Group. Imagine being checked-in for your flight at the hotel or at your congress centre before you leave for the airport. These are just some of the options that Amadeus' ACUS offers to improve the way airports and airlines serve their passengers.

To mark the launch of ACUS in India, Amadeus and Bird Group recently held India's first Common Use Roundtable in Delhi. The event brought together India's senior airline and airport industry leaders to share insights, learnings and

create a vision for the future of Common Use in the country.

Sarah Samuel. Head of Airport IT-Asia Pacific, Amadeus says, "The rapid growth of passengers travelling in India means airports are under a lot pressure. Now more than ever, they need to think differently to provide the service expected by consumers. The airport industry has advanced tremendously from the days of dedicated airline check-in desks towards a much more flexible and shared environment. Globally, we are now seeing airports ready to embrace change in order to maximise commercial and operational performance."

Samuel further mentioned, "Airlines are already running many critical applications that are centrally hosted



Sarah Samuel Head of Airport IT—Asia Pacific Amadeus

Globally, we are now seeing airports ready to embrace change to maximise commercial and operational performance





Rajesh Suri Executive Vice President, Business Development, Bird Group

**ACUS** demonstrates our commitment to offer best-inclass solutions to partners in the Indian subcontinent

and accesible by their agents via the internet; we are now seeing the airport industry follow this trend with Amadeus ACUS. Our platform has enabled the airport ecosystem to use its resources more intelligently, ultimately improving the passenger experience and taking the next step towards becoming the airport of the future. We look forward to working with airports in India and establishing a place for ACUS in the market place."

India has experienced a six-fold increase in air passenger numbers over the past decade as its citizens take advantage of better connectivity and cheaper fares. With this hike in travellers comes more congested airports. The architecture of Amadeus ACUS allows 'fixed' check-in counters to be rapidly redeployed anywhere within the terminal, and to 'off airport' locations, to enable the airport to access additional passenger capacity on demand to meet short notice or seasonal fluctuations.

Fast and easy to implement, with ACUS and an internet connection, passenger processing services can be easily extended to include off-airport locations such as hotels, exhibitions, convention centres, train stations and cruise liners. ACUS can be used on any device including laptops and relocatable devices. The adoption of ACUS will allow airports to eliminate costly onsite systems, lowering their operational expenses and minimising their environmental impact.

Airlines will also be able to reduce costs owing to centralised connectivity to airports and simplified passenger processing with offering newgeneration, multiple choice, enhanced check-in services to its passengers. This will further enhance passenger experience.

Rajesh Suri, Executive Vice President, Business Development, Bird Group shared, "Airports and airlines around the world are looking at how new technologies and solutions can improve passenger experience and operations throughout the airport. Behind the scenes and in front of the passenger, we are pleased to introduce ACUS to India. It is indeed a milestone moment for us as we demonstrate our commitment to offer best-in-class solutions to our business partners across the Indian subcontinent."

Not only does ACUS provide more flexiblity in operations and reduced passenger processing costs for airlines, it also delivers substantial energy savings reducing the overall CO2 emissions of air-Already implemented ports. in over 30 destinations across the globe, ACUS is a highly competitive solution.

## Key features of ACUS

Application virtualisation technology

←Delivered via SaaS model, centrally hosted in a state-of-the-art data centre

Based on secure network connectivity and 4G communications

Connection to all airline Departure Control System & airport applications

- Complete end-to-end solution delivery Compatible with industry
- standards
- Energy saving

## In-flight Wi-Fi could be game changer in business travel

se in-flight nt if there was Wi-Fi 68% 86% ay more for faster Wi-Fi (vs 62% surve 69%



FCM Travel Solutions and KPMG's recent whitepaper titled 'The Digi-Smart Indian Business Traveller' forecasts that Indian travellers have higher inclination towards in-flight Wi-Fi as compared to travellers from other countries, according to a survey by Inmarsat. With current nil penetration and high demand amongst Indian travellers, in-flight Wi-Fi can be a potential game changer in enhancing business traveller experience considering that fliers are potentially willing to shift travel experiences for onboard Wi-Fi. For business travellers, the need for seamless connectivity makes them natural users of these services. While the use of in-flight Wi-Fi should be encouraged, it is necessary to consider various factors including aircraft upgrade requirements, connectivity speed and quality, cybersecurity concerns, etc.

# **AGENTS**

## **Innovative & innstant solutions**

Innstant Travel aims to provide the best travel booking experience to its clients. A leading global provider of wholesale travel products and services, the company offers innovative solutions to increase sales and profits.

TT Bureau

With a client base of over 26,000 travel agencies and tour operators worldwide, Innstant Travel services travel professionals in over 100 source markets. "We have three main business units - wholesale, travel technology, and a hotel property and system management division. In terms of opportunity in the Indian market, we see that all three of them have a good proposition," says Darryl Ismail, Director. Innstant Group.

With a 400 per cent revenue increase from India in a year, Innstant Travel is gaining popularity. "We have over 500 Indian agents already using the system and this list is growing. We are working on introducing more solutions



and getting more agents to work with us," says Gagan Kakkar, Country Head—India, Innstant Travel. Committed to the Indian market and seeing it as a competitive market to do business, Innstant group is confident that India will be amongst its top three markets with the fullness of time.

Innstant Travel offers travel professionals a stateof-the-art booking engine and tools needed to stay ahead in today's fast-paced and competitive travel industry. "Our wholesale division, which is Innstant Travel, we have 300,000 hotels worldwide and in addition to that we are now adding 128,000 apartments worldwide. Our port-

Innstant Travel offers travel professionals a state-of-the-art booking engine and tools needed to stay ahead in today's fast-paced and competitive travel industry

folio is comprehensive and we even offer same day availability. We contract different room types, from standard rooms to penthouse suites," adds Ismail.

Staying ahead of the game and being unique, "our differentiator is the pricing

we have a lot of direct connect agreements, which means we are connecting directly with the hotel chains assuring quality and real-time inventory. The other factor setting up apart is our clever application of technology. We have

created new products such

as the price drop alert. Ho-

tels use dynamic yield tools

these days and hotel prices

can change a few times. Our

system is monitoring these

drops and if the price drops,

the system sends an alert

providing an opportunity for

the agent to update the book-

mechanisms we use. Firstly,

## Innstants USPs

great service in an instant!

ing to the new price and save

In addition, the company

offers other features especial-

ly designed for the travel pro-

fessional, making life easier

and simultaneously providing

costs", Ismail elaborates.

The company has a lot of direct connect agreements, which means we are connecting directly with the hotel chains assuring quality and realtime inventory

✓ With the clever application of technology, the company has created new products such as the price drop alert. The system sends an alert whenever the price drops

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For more information contact Gagan Kakkar: gk@innstanttravel.com www.innstant.Travel

# J&K comeback on tourism map

**Sarmad Hafeez** (IAS), Secretary, Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir, hopes that tourism is going to revive in the state post the TAAI convention, coupled with the increased promotions and investments in tourism infrastructure, along with organisation of roadshows in major Indian cities.

## TT Bureau

### TAAI convention

The recently-concluded TAAI Convention in Srinagar instilled hope in J&K to revive its tourism. Agreed Sarmad Hafeez, saying, "It was after more than 30 years that TAAI came back to Kashmir with one of the biggest gatherings. When travel agents come and visit the state, they can see how stunning and beautiful it is. This convention has given them a chance to experience the hospitality of Kashmir first-hand."

#### New initiatives

Hafeez insisted that they are taking multiple initiatives to promote the tourism offerings of J&K. "We have already held a few roadshows in major cities and are inviting people from different states to come and experience the state. We



Sarmad Hafeez (IAS), Secretary Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir

are also running an advertisement campaign and simultaneously trying to improve our infrastructure. Even during our low time when fewer people were visiting Kashmir, we introspected and tried to figure out ways to improve the scenario in the state. Today, the infrastructure has improved considerably as many national hotel chains have been introduced in Kashmir like Taj, Lalit, Sheraton, Meridien, ITC, Khyber, etc," added Hafeez.

#### Way forward

The Secretary shared that under the Prime Minister Development Fund, Jammu & Kashmir received a special package of `2000 crore, es-

**G** Every year we will get about `400 crores for various initiatives. We are building conference centres for MiCE, creating roadside facilities & infrastructure in adventure tourism under the Himalayan circuit

pecially for tourism. "Every year we will be getting about `400 crores for several initiatives we are undertaking. We are building conference centres for MiCE tourism, creating roadside facilities, inHimalayan circuit

frastructure in adventure tour-

ism and eco-tourism under the

Himalavan circuit. We have an

opportunity for pilgrim tourism

and hence we are developing

some pilarim sites. Our herit-

age dates back to 1000 years

and we have to preserve and

work towards that. Apart from

tourism, we are focusing on

horticulture like cultivation of

state offers some of the best golf courses for golf lovers.

#### Busting the myth

Despite so many efforts, there are many countries, including the United States of America, which have taken out travel advisories against visiting Kashmir. Hafeez said, "We are working with the embassies of such countries and as things improve I am sure some of these countries would lift these advisories. In fact, some of them have already shown interest in the same, because Kashmir is a safe place to travel. In fact, National Crime Bureau's records clearly show that there has been no attack and crime against a tourist in the last two years. We have even received positive feedback from women travellers. Hence, we are hopeful that these advisories will be lifted

as we will able to move in the right direction."

**STATES** 

Hafeez said that the interest in Kashmir is increasing. "The number of arrivals is higher than last year. The bookings for travel agents are already looking good. We are expecting a few more conventions as well. We are in talks to do a FICCI all women convention here, with around 200 women. I believe that by creating good activity and buzz here, we will be able to improve the numbers as well," he added.

## **Rising** Kashmir

The state is also focusing on horticulture like cultivation of almonds, apples, cherries and strawberries

**World Talk** The following regular column provides you a brief update on world events and how they impact the tourism sector.

#### & brains Canada Charlevoix, Canada Local leaders are expecting the \$600m -tag of hosting Svdnev, Australia the G7 summit will ear-old bov lp them showcase the cultural, tourism and economic n informed by his diversity of Canada's Quebec region. going on holiday this ear. Drew. used hi Hawaii, USA The eruption of his be the start of a Kilauea Volcano has Colombia inspired a new breed of adventure tourism As the country holds Lava tourists are its first election after flocking to the volcano to catch glimpses of the historic peace deal between the governne orange rivers. ment and the FARC could this be a start increased tourism to South America? Experts are hoping the ent peace treaty wi nelp attract tourists



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Who doesn't wish to take a break from the routine and escape in the lap of nature? This is what you can experience at the charming Tawa and Madhai located at the entrance of Satpura National Park which takes you on a peaceful journey amidst lush greenery and pleasant ambience. Adjoined with Pachmarhi and Bori Sanctuaries providing a glimpse of unique central Indian ecosystem, Tawa and Madhai are the perfect vacation destination.



The Tawa Dam & Reservoir offers a scenic escape from the hustle bustle of city life. Situated in the lap of the luscious Satpura National Park, the Tawa Dam & Reservoir is the ideal monsoon getaway. The Tawa River is the longest tributary of the Narmada and provides a picturesque and pristine view for sore eyes. Sunsets viewed from the dam are especially captivating. Even more enchanting is the lake cruise, which takes you on a serene hour-long ride along the dreamy little islands dotting the reservoir and the panoramic hills of the Satpura to Churna. Here you can indulge in a jungle safari at the Satpura Tiger Reserve.

#### Charming Tawa Madhai PLACES OF INTEREST

- (a) Tawa Churna Cruise Safari
- Satpura National Park
  Backwater Cruises
- Bird Watching
- Reservoir Boat Club

Madhai

Madhai is gateway to the most exquisite and beautiful forests in India - Satpura. Located amidst sprawling forests, shimmering backwaters, rich wildlife, under a sky full of twinkling stars, where the air is crisp and clean, Madhai is a balm to your soul. Few places in the world can compete with its raw wilderness, absolute tranquility and the air of mystique. It delights you with its rich wildlife, sprawling meadows, unending backwaters and spell-binding views that leave you awestruck and get you to be completely in sync with the magic of nature.

Allow Madhai to mesmerize you with its natural beauty, the river Denwa and surreal sunsets that are a riot of colors. The peaceful silence here, speaks volumes to your soul.

### Nearby Destinations

#### Serene Pachmarhi - 113 Km

Pachmarhi popularly known as 'Satpura ki Rani' (Queen of Satpura) sits beautifully, embellished by nature and history, amidst the Satpura range.

#### Begum's Bhopal – 121 Km

Bhopal also called as the city of lakes offers a beautiful amalgamation of old and new world, which overlook the lakes and the old city beyond.

#### Getting There



#### **Reaching by Air**

The nearest airports to Tawa and Madhai are Bhopal (120 km) and Jabalpur (270 km) and Nagpur (270 km).



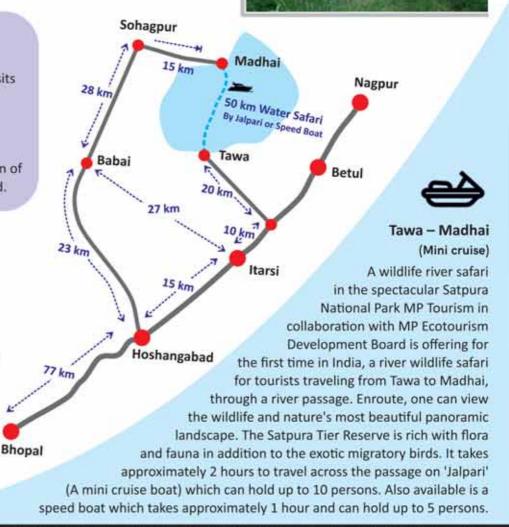
### **Reaching by Rail**

**TAWA** - Itarsi railway station is 33 km and is the biggest junction of Central India. While Bhopal is 120 km away.

MADHAI - Sohagpur is the nearest railway station and is well connected to Itarsi, Bhopal and Jabalpur.

#### **Reaching by Road**

Regular bus/cab services are available from Bhopal (120 km), Indore (270 km) and Nagpur (270 km).



# Amadeus to ease airport woes

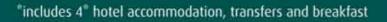
To mark the launch of 'Airport Common Use Service' (ACUS) in India, Amadeus and Bird Group recently held India's first Common Use Roundtable in Delhi. The event brought together India's senior airline and airport industry leaders to share insights, learnings and create a vision for the future of Common Use in the country.



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## **NTO** Tiered cities at GTM

At the recently-held Germany Travel Mart (GTM) 2018 in Dresden, a delegation of Indian agents and media explored Destination Germany and met suppliers from around the country.

## 🛙 Nisha Verma

The 2018 edition of GTM witnessed a big delegation from India, held at the scenic historical city of Dresden in Germany. Romit Theophilus, Director, German National Tourist Office (GNTO), India, said, "Since GTM is held in a different city every year, it gives participants an opportunity to experience a diverse region and its culture. The charming city of Dresden falls in the eastern state of Saxony." Next year, GTM will be held from May 12-14 in Wiesbaden.

He claimed that the interest of Indian travel agents is ever-growing for GTM. "The platform provides operators with an opportunity to have one-on-one interactions, with suppliers they would work closely with, in the coming years. This year too, we saw an enthusiastic participa-

tion from the trade, especially from Tier-II and Tier-III cities in India," he said.

Theophilus further added that the exhibition is perfect for operators looking at broadening their horizons and exploring beyond the traditional itineraries. "The event allows tour operators to meet new suppliers and helps them get updated on the latest offerings and attractions. Further, with the operators meeting DMCs

we have seen a shift in travellers' perception of Destination Germany. While our trade and business statistics continue to grow steadily, we have witnessed a surge in number of travellers visiting the country for leisure. With our focus on theme-based marketing, our core theme for 2018, - 'Culinary Germany', lays stress on the diverse and rich culinary heritage of the country as well as the niche and upcoming

Germany Travel Mart allows tour operators to meet new suppliers and helps them get updated on the latest offerings and attractions. With the operators meeting DMCs and other suppliers face-toface, this platform helps operators build on their existing trade relations

and other suppliers face-toface, this platform helps operators build on their existing trade relations translating into better business."

Later, GNTO India works towards materialising these meetings into business with agents. "At GNTO India,

post GTM, we act as a liaison office for the suppliers and buyers to stay connected, and build on mutually beneficial business opportuniclaimed ties." Theophilus.

This year, the Indian contingent consisted of 11 members from the travel trade, and Theophilus said that the size of Indian delegates along with the media has remained constant over the years. "This indicates the unwavering interest and support of the Indian trade in destination Germany," he added.

GNTO India will now be focusing on promoting the latest global theme in the country. "Over the years,

modern trends on the subject," he informed.

Another focus area for Theophilus would be to tap the wedding market in India. "Germany has a plethora of unique and picturesque locales that are ideal for a destination wedding. Add to this, excellent value for money and the destination stands out as a top contender for this segment. In the coming years, we hope to work closely with trade partners looking at promoting this segment for their clients," he shared.

Theophilus revealed, "Until February 2018, Germany witnessed 1,15,968 visitor overnights from India, a 7 per cent increase over the same period last year. Conservatively speaking, we hope to achieve a 5-8 per cent growth in visitor overnights in 2018."

## **Hocus** Areas

Apart from emphasising on the diverse and rich culinary heritage of the country, another focus area for GNTO India would be to tap the wedding market in the country

Germany has a plethora of unique and picturesque locales that are ideal for a destination wedding



## Introducing **Universal Travel App**



# Southern stalwarts bask in the

FAMILYALBUM

The fifth edition of India Travel Awards–South was recently held at Clarks Exotica Convention Resort and Spa, Bengaluru amidst the presence of stalwarts of the travel and tourism industry. Recognising the efforts of regional industry players in tourism and hospitality, the awardees are selected based on a non-biased system of voting.



## FAMILYALBUM

# sun at India Travel Awards



## ASSOCIATIONTALK

## EVENT TALK

## **JUNE 2018**

IATA AGM 2018	Sydney, Australia	3-5
International Travel Roadshow (ITR)	Delhi	12
International Travel Roadshow (ITR)	Kolkata	13
International Travel Roadshow (ITR)	Pune	15
International Travel Roadshow (ITR)	Hyderabad	16
International Travel Roadshow (ITR)	Kochi	19
International Yoga Day	India	21
Israel Tourism Roadshow	Nashik	21
Skål Asian Region Congress	Macau	21-24
TCEB MiCE Roadshow	Indore	25
Amazing Thailand Wedding Roadshow	Indore	25
Amazing Thailand Wedding Roadshow	Chennai	27
PATA India Chapter Update & Outlook Meeting	Delhi	27
TCEB MiCE Roadshow	Chennai	27
HRAWI Convention	Sri Lanka	27-30
Telangana Tourism Conclave-2018	Hyderabad	28-30
India International Travel Exhibition (IITE)	Raipur	29-Jul 1

## JULY 2018

Hotel Operations Summit India 2018	Delhi	2
TCEB MiCE Roadshow	Bengaluru	3
TCEB MiCE Roadshow	Mumbai	5
GPS	Chandigarh	5-7
TTF	Kolkata	6-8
Travel Wedding Show	Jaipur	7-8
Kiwi Link India	Mumbai	9-10
Tourism New Zealand Frontline Training	Bengaluru	12
GPS	Ahmedabad	12-14
Tourism New Zealand Frontline Training	Delhi	13
TTF	Hyderabad	13-14
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Trichy	16
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Ludhiana	16
ACTE Global Summit	Singapore	17-18
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Lucknow	18
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Coimbatore	18
GPS	Lucknow	19-21
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Kochi	20
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Kolkata	20
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Surat	24
Focus Philippines	Goa	25-28
Singapore Tourism Roadshow	Visakhapatnam	26
IITM	Bengaluru	27-29
UNICEF Adventure Expo	Noida	28-29

## **AUGUST 2018**

GPS	Kolkata	2-4	
IITM	Chennai	3-5	
India International Travel Exhibition (IITE)	Indore	3-5	
Tourism Fiji Roadshow	Mumbai	6-7	
Tourism Fiji Roadshow	Kolkata	8	
Tourism Fiji Roadshow	Delhi	9	
Tourism Fiji Roadshow	Chandigarh	10	
GPS	Kochi	9-11	
OTOAI Convention	Cape Town	11-14	
For more information, contact us at: talk@ddppl.com			

## ADTOI for Northeast chapters

The Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India is keen on Northeast chapters. **PP Khanna**, President, speaks about border tourism, women empowerment and skill management programme.

## TT Bureau

#### **Q**What is your opinion about the new Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh chapters?

This is our ninth chapter and our motive is to promote Haryana and Chandigarh in terms of farm tourism, village tourism, highway tourism, golf tourism, ecotourism and adventure tourism. We wanted to convey the message to tourism ministries of Punjab and Haryana that there is a potential, which is not being explored. For example, the partition museum which was opened last year is not promoted enough. We have to work with agents in these states and union territories.

#### **O**Are any new chapters in the offing?

We are thinking of opening chapters in northeast states and are working with the local agents there to study how it can be done. In the south, we have chapters in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala with quite a good number of members. We are expecting more travel agents to join the association.

## **Q**<sup>What</sup> is ADTOI's next agenda?

We have our new website which is dynamic, and we have asked our members to mention their professional skills so that their expertise can be understood for tasks to be assigned accordingly. For example, if a person has sound knowledge about Kerala, and if somebody else is good with Andhra Pradesh, they can be deployed appropriately. The website is also connected with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the state tourism departments.

## **O***How is ADTOI working towards skill management programme?*

We are in touch with



PP Khanna President ADTOI

various state tourism bodies to start a training programme so that members get to know where a product can be sold. We also plan to work with institutions who can train our members to interact with tourists. With a lot of competition in the industry, we have to make sure that tourists are given accurate information, and don't go to others for services with cheap prices.

#### After assuming charge as President, do you think you were able to succeed your agenda?

My main agenda was to have a committee of Research and Development. We have a Chairman for this wing and have come up with the idea of border tourism. Our chairman has already made four to five visits to Kargil to work on it. Women empowerment is another area where we are focusing. We have appointed one female personnel to work on how women can work in the tourism industry. We have also held roadshows and womenfam trips.

#### **Q**<sup>When is the next</sup> ADTOI elections scheduled?

We have our current term till August this year. The new election date has not been finalised. It may take place in June or mid-June.

## DDP Game Changer Ajeet Bajaj along with daughter scales Mt Everest



"Unfurling the Indian tricolour on the summit of Mt Everest with my daughter Diya was one of the proudest and most emotional moments of my life," said Bajaj while speaking of his feat. Skål Delhi and all the members joined together to send congratulation messages to this dynamic duo for their fantastic achievement.



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India's First & ONLY MICE magazine





Business Travel gets a Makeover...





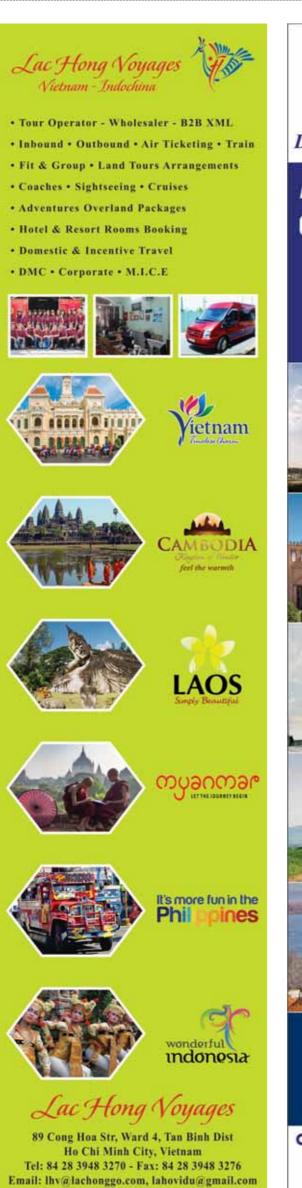
copies of MiCEtalk go out to corporates, MiCE agents, PCO's, DMC's and other MiCE organisers

For further details, please contact: **Delhi:** 

neeraj.kaira@ddppl.com, +91 96509 11399

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## **CLIPBOARD**



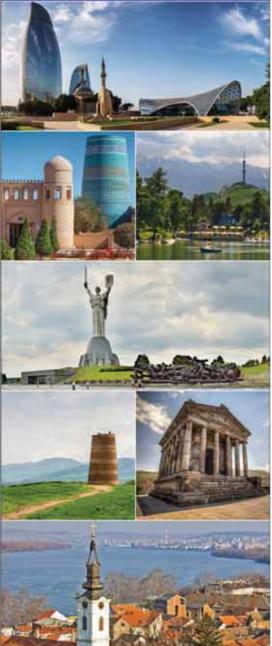






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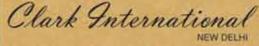


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### The St Regis, Mumbai

#### Mumbai

The St Regis Mumbai has announced the appointment of Saurabh Dube as Director of Sales and Marketing. Dube brings over



Development and Sales and Marketing within the luxury segment and hospitality industry. He will lead the dynamic sales team of the hotel, creating and overseeing revenue plans and surpassing targets. Dube has been associated with leading international and Indian hotel chains where he has successfully helmed the sales and business development teams, leading them to achieve both business growth and market dominance within the respective competitive markets

### The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi

#### NCR

Rahul Puri has been appointed as the General Manager at The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi. With 20 years of international expertise, Puri will now focus on the overall operations at the property,

drive hotel performance, guest satisfaction, diversify Food and Beverage experiences, focus on strong brand positioning of the hotel while creating a positive workforce environment. He joined Marriott International in 2005 at Sheraton Hongkong Hotel and Tower and then transitioned into the role of Area Director for Revenue Strategy for India, Australia and Malaysia in 2011, which culminated into his most recent assignment as Senior Area Director of Revenue Strategy-South Asia.

### Azaya Beach Resort Goa

#### Goa

Azaya Beach Resort Goa has named Rajesh KR Gupta as the General Manager. In his new role, he will be responsible for offering guests

hospitality and personalised services. An industry veteran with over two decades in the hospitality industry, Gupta brings with him an experience of pre-opening and expertise in revenue analysis, yield management and sales and marketing. Prior to this, Gupta worked with Orchid Ecotel Hotel Pune in the capacity of General Manager, where he was in charge of overseeing the transformation for the hotel. His career also boasts of a successful stint at The Orchid Mumbai as General Manager to eventually leading the team as Vice President-Operations.

### **Seoul Tourism Organisation**

#### Seoul

Jae-sung Rhee, former Executive Vice President of Korea Tourism Organisation, has been appointed to become the first President and



CEO of Seoul Tourism Organisation. He worked at the Korea Tourism Organisation for 33 years from 1985 to 2017 and held the position of director in every department within the organisation. With his hands-on experience and expertise, leadership abilities and global sensibility, Rhee is regarded as an expert in the field of tourism. President Rhee joined the Seoul Tourism Organisation as it officially relaunched under a different legal status, after it was restructured government-invested from а corporation into a governmentfunded foundation.

### Courtyard by Marriott Raipur Raipur

Rajneesh Kumar has been designated as the General Manager at Courtyard by Marriott Raipur. He brings to the table his vast repertoire of running and managing successful hotels and

has an extensive experience of almost 14 years in the hospitality industry. Spearheading one of the finest five-star deluxe hotels in Chhattisgarh, Kumar is responsible for the associates' elicit performance, culminating fine quest experience and achieving vision of the hotel. He is committed to provide strategic leadership expertise that ensures effective and efficient overall management at the hotel. Prior to this. Kumar was Director of Operations at Jaipur Marriott Hotel.

#### Novotel Goa Dona Sylvia Resort Goa

Vishal Khosla, General Manager of Novotel Goa Dona Svlvia Resort, brings over two decades of hospitality and management

experience to his new role. Khosla is responsible for spearheading operations at the beach resort, and ensuring growth with innovative strategies. His strong team building skills, expert approach towards business development, comprehensive knowledge of international standard service procedures and a resilient background in hospitality, provides strategic and tactical depth to the hotel. He brings international experience spanning the UK, UAE and India. Khosla holds a MBA in Marketing Management.

## **MOVEMENTS**

#### **Marriott International**

#### Bengaluru

Marriott International has recently appointed Pranay Verdia as Multi Property General Manager for Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru Outer



Ring Road, Fairfield by Marriott Bengaluru Outer Ring Road and Fairfield by Marriott Bengaluru Rajajinagar. With over 19 years of experience in hospitality, Verdia has been associated with various properties of Marriott International across India. Prior to this, he has worked at Four Season Hotel Mumbai and Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa in different roles.

He joined the Marriott family in 2000 at Renaissance Mumbai Hotel & Convention Centre and Marriott Executive Apartments

### Indore Marriott Hotel

#### Indore

Indore Marriott Hotel has appointed Devesh Rawat as its new General Manager. His role includes overseeing all departments, managing the commercial and operational

performance of the hotel, ensure full compliance to hotel operating controls, SOPs, policies, procedures and service standards and safeguarding the quality of operations. Rawat brings in 18 years of rich experience of working with luxury hotels and resorts. Throughout his career, he proved to be one of the strongest pillars of the F&B industry as he simultaneously won many awards and accolades yearon-year

### The Small Maldives Island Co Maldives

Tanushree Joshi has been appointed as Sales Manager of The Small Maldives Island Co for the India market.



She comes with a wealth of experience and has been associated with tourism boards and luxury hotel chains in her 13 years of experience with the hospitality industry. In her current role, Joshi will spearhead Sales & Marketing for three resorts - Huvafen Fushi, Amilla Fushi and Finolhu. She is not a new face to Maldives as she has previously worked with Sun Siyam hotels.

Swadesh Kumar, President, Adventure Tour Operators Association of India, believes in living life to the fullest. He says, "Whenever I get free time, I love to spend it

with my grandchildren." Kumar possess immense love for the mountains and thus, he is found in the hills most often. According to Kumar, "A traveller must have an open mind while travelling; that is a travel essential." As a veteran of the tourism industry, Kumar's message for newcomers in the industry is that one should work honestly and to the best of one's abilities.

Hugh Aitken, Senior Director—Strategic Partnerships, Skyscanner, spends his free time travelling with family. "India is very close to my heart. I would love to travel to more parts of India, New York and San Francisco,"

says Aitken. The destinations on his bucket list include Switzerland and Scandinavia. Addressing the the tourism aspirants, Aitken opines, "I request the new joiners to see this industry as a career and not as a stop or wait for something else."

Runeep Sangha, Executive Director, PATA India Chapter believes in finding happiness in work. Sangha loves to explore South America, Greece and South Africa. His advice to newcomers in



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- Hong Kong Disneyland 1-Day Ticket
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- O2 nights accommodation with breakfast in Venetian Macau
- Hong Kong Night tour on shared basis
- Macau city tour on shared basis
- Hong Kong Macau Hong Kong ferry ticket
- Z Airport Disney's Hollywood Hotel Hong Kong Hotel Hong Kong Pier Transfer on shared basis



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IONG KONG

USD 38



With over 300 adventure activities, South Africa is undoubtedly the adventure capital of the world, and India is the biggest adventure market for the country, believes Hanneli Slabber, General Manager-Middle East, Asia & Australasia, South African Tourism.

### Amrita Ghosh from Durban

ndians travelling to South Africa seem to perfectly resonate the old saying, "Adventures are to the adventurous." With a diverse set of activities ranging from mountain biking, shark cage diving, bungee jumping, to horseback safaris, the Indian crowd is always on the search for experiencing adrenaline rushes, says Hanneli Slabber, General Manager-Middle East, Asia & Australasia, South African Tourism. "India is our biggest adventure market in the world. It is also important in terms of job creation among the locals as compared to other countries. Earlier, only the young crowd used to take the plunge but now even 60-year-old people are equally upbeat for adventures," says Slabber.

The challenge, however, comes with the variety of products South Africa has on offer. "With more than 60,000 different tourism packages to visitors, it is difficult to decide which ones to offer and which ones to pull out as Indians want to cover the maximum within the short-

## Number Game

🖊 In 2017, 97,921 Indians travelled to South Africa. as per the latest figures by South African Tourism

According to UNWTO, 8 per cent more international tourists visited Africa in 2017, pushing up the number of tourists to 5 per cent

est possible period. They are activity-driven, knowledgeable, interactive and quite innovative in their approach to holidays. The travel period for Indians is between March and September, which is low season in South Africa," Slabber mentioned.

On Indaba, Slabber said that Africa's Travel Indaba is like a one-stop shop for the tourism industry. "Anybody who needs to buy a tourism product in Africa can just come here at says, "In South Africa, we now observe that a lot more specialist requests are coming in. And we have offerings like our book clubs and horse riding activities." On working with Indian travel trade, Slabber strongly believes that an appropriate understanding, methodology and logic is essential to be applied while forging relationships with the Indian trade.

Postal Reg. No.: DL(ND)-11/6044/2018-19-20; WPP No.: U(C)-178/2018-20 for posting on  $1^{st}-2^{nd}$  and  $16^{th}-17^{th}$  of the same month at NDHO, New Delhi - 110001, RNI No.: 53492/1991

venues including large convention centres located in Durban. Johannesburg and Cape Town which skillfully cater to events of any stature." A variety of options exist to cater for conferences, events and incentives of all sizes and budgets."

Date of Publication: 30-05-2018

Talking about the targets set for 2018, Slabber says,

**6** With more than 60,000 different tourism packages, it is difficult to decide which ones to offer and which ones to pull out as Indians want to cover the maximum within the shortest period. They are activity-driven, interactive and innovative in their approach to holidays

this trade show. From an interaction point of view, meetings are extremely important. How we measure the success of the show is because of the presence of our online diary system - we don't measure success by the number of exhibitors or buyers but how many actual meetings we have set up and how many of those were actually fulfilled."

South Africa is one of the preferred destinations for Indians looking to holiday abroad as it is perhaps the only country where adventure, history and lifestyle seamlessly integrates into each other. Talking about the changing demands of agents over the years, Slabber

36,200 print

every fortnight

We'll let the numbers speak for themselves

the 98k mark. This year, we wanted to reach 104k, so we want to break alike. January to May looked incredibly good. We have mixed feelings about the next two months."

more than 1700 conference

"Last year, we almost touched

From January to September 2017, MiCE contributed to 32.8 per cent of total Indian arrivals to South Africa. On new incentive programmes for MiCE, Slabber explains, "We are coming up with a new conventional bureau for MiCE operators. South Africa is a hub for meetings in Africa, with

travel industry

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# Innovating with land packages

This year TravelBullz plans to offer its Escorted Land Combo Packages for Bangkok and Pattaya, a first-ofits-kind in a DMC model. This will upgrade the company's SIC Land Combos to a fully guided package.



TravelBullz is constantly challenging the norms to enhance customer experience and for the company, the year 2018 is dedicated towards customer service and innovation in this domain. According to **KD Singh**, Founder and President, TravelBullz, the company will innovate its services to offer a smooth, hassle-free experience to its clients which includes, pre-

## Al in business

The latest launch of Google Duplex technology merged all Google's technologies like the text to speech with AI, making Google Assistant seem more human than a computerised experience

Artificial Intelligence would play a major role in hospitality business, thereby making transactions seamless sales, post sales, and on-ground services.

"The first step towards this goal, is the launch of our fully Escorted Land Combo Packages for Bangkok and Pattaya which ensures that all our guests get the best on ground service on a SIC budget. This will completely move our SIC Land Combos to a fully guided package with value add-ons such as arrival day breakfast and daily water bottles for each guest. This would be a first in the DMC model. We expect this new product to be a big success and soon it will be replicated in all cities with our presence," says Singh.

Singh explains that this year's outbound season has started on a very strong note for the company with various verticals of TravelBullz witnessing healthy growth for both FIT and Groups/MiCE business. "While conventionally we have always

been doing very well with our groups business in Thailand and Hong Kong, Macau has been the star surprise this year for groups, series and MiCE business."

Further, Singh divulges his market intelligence on various



changing trends in the market. He points out that out of the regular long-haul destinations from India, USA has been a hot favourite followed by the usual destinations in Western Europe. For short-haul holidays, destinations like Dubai, Bali and The Philippines have taken the cake in growth with respect to numbers while numbers to Sintravel has been growing rapidly. Keeping up with the consumption pattern of the Indian travellers, FIT business has also recorded steady growth. However, the two new segments which have been gaining a lot of momentum are experiential travel and travel for social events like weddings, birthdays and anniversary celebrations." jor role in all developments in hospitality business, making transactions seamless, cutting through value chains and making user experience unparalleled to anything seen before. "It would not be long when Siri or Google Assistant would be planning itineraries, scanning through websites and making reservations on best available

**C**The launch of Escorted Land Combo Packages for Bangkok and Pattaya ensures that all our guests get the best on ground service on a SIC budget. This will completely move our SIC Land Combos to a fully guided package with value add-ons such as arrival day breakfast and daily water bottles for guests **J** 

> gapore have also seen steady growth. He adds, "In t e r m s of segments, M i C E

With businesses going digital and mobile transactions on an unprecedented rise, Singh feels that as an industry, everyone is going to travel through the most significant change. He points out that Artificial Intelligence would play a maprices. A case in point is the latest launch of Google Duplex technology which merged all Google's technologies like the text to speech with AI, making Google Assistant seem more human than a computerised experience," adds Singh.





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## GUESTCOLUMN

# Are you ready for travel yet?

The much-awaited holiday season is around the corner and we're packing our bags. While you have closed the 'to-do' list, it's the financial protection cover which is needed to safeguard and make your trip hassle-free, a must-have travel insurance policy. **Antony Jacob**, CEO, Apollo Munich, ticks off some of the boxes...

n the excitement of exploring a new location with your loved ones, it's important to be mindful of things which are not under one's control - from minor incidences like cancellation of trip, loss of baggage to major incidences such as unexpected accidents, losing your passport in a foreign land, medical emergencies and loss of baggage.

#### Preempt and prepare

Before packing your bags, do ensure you are prepared for the uncertainties, should something unpleasant happen while travelling. Consider a scenario where a family holidaying to make memories and due to weather change, the youngest member falls under the weather. The treatment in a foreign land will ruin the whole experience of the vacation. Not to mention additional problems such as increasing the length of the stay, change in tickets, expense on food and travel – all of which, which has not been accounted for.

Let's talk about another scenario – you need to attend a business meeting the day you land, but the airline has misplaced your baggage. So, will you spend time waiting in the airport or would like to prepare for your meeting? Goes without saying that the most obvious question here would be are you covered for this loss – loss of time, energy, mental exhaustion?

But if such unwarranted situations are preempted and worked around in advance, there is no way it will work as a deterrent in the foreign land. A travel insurance policy can't stop you from falling ill, or getting injured in an accident, or getting your flight cancelled due to inclement weather but it makes sure that you have assistance when you really need it.

#### Selecting the best policy

A best policy is nothing but the amalgamation of your requirements and the offerings. For instance, if you are a frequent traveller, multiple trip policy is something you should look for. A quick glance on the below shall help you arrive at what you are looking for:

◆Unexpected expenses: Ensure that your trip expenses are covered which typically includes protection for medical expenses, emergency evacuations, loss of baggage and belongings. However, senior citizens and travellers with preexisting medical conditions will be required to buy specific travel insurance plans.

◆Geography: Travel insurance plans can be bought for global or a particular geography-based coverage. So ensure your travel destination is covered before choosing a plan.

◆Trip cancellation cover: Do double check whether the policy covers cancellation charges in an event of flight cancellation due to unforeseen circumstances. This aspect naturally flows into replacement of tickets/flights and the expenses incurred on them. With the world moving towards customer experience, do opt for a policy which keeps you in the centre and is ready to cover your alternate expenses.

Delay of checked baggage: If you have connecting flights at two-three airports, which also increases the risk of baggage loss or delay, a policy which covers this clause should be your first bet.

◆Seamless experience: Do look for a policy which promises a seamless experience. Also, to enjoy this, it's advisable to declaring all items that you plan to carry along for your trip. This makes the filing process easier and relatively hassle-free.

♦ Reviews: A must-do before you hit the click button to buy the policy you like. In this digital age, I can't emphasise enough the need and importance of a quick search to find the review of your shortlisted policies.

♦ Premium: However enticing this may sound, this is the last thing one should consider while finalising their policy.

So, let's cover ourselves well before we enjoy that break we have earned. After all, prevention is better than cure. Have a safe trip!

(The views expressed are solely of the author. The publication may or may not subscribe to the same.)



Antony Jacob CEO, Apollo Munich

## IATO's new team meets members

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) organised its first luncheon meeting for members at The Leela Ambience Gurugram post electing its new team in April. The new team members addressed the gathering and shared their plans ahead.















## FAMILYALBUM

# Indaba creates new stories

Held in Durban, Africa's Travel Indaba welcomed visitors, exhibitors, delegates and buyers from across the continent and world. The theme for this year's show was about telling African success stories, and a big part of this will be celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth with tourism delegates from all over the world.



## Qatar sets eyes on India market

With its recent opening of a representative office in Mumbai, Qatar Tourism Authority focuses on multiple segments in India like MiCE, weddings, FITs, family and weekend travellers.

good premium offerings. Be-

sides its resorts, beaches,

shopping and F&B offerings, it

will also showcase its culture,

desert and marine experi-

ences to the India market.

MiCE will be a key seg-

ment in its strategy for India

having its national carrier fly

About 70 per cent of Qa-

over 150 destinations.

## TT Bureau

**NTO** 

TA's representative office Unin India will oversee a wide range of promotional initiatives, including workshops, sales visits, travel agent destination training through QTA's online Tawash programme, partnerships with tour operators, familiarisation trips, media campaigns and a variety of innovative activities to raise Qatar's profile as a leisure and business tourism destination among Indian tourists. Speaking at the tourism office opening, Rashed Saeed Al-Qurese, Chief Marketing & Promotion Officer, Qatar Tourism Authority said, "India is an important source market for us. With an eye on In-



visa free entry and more than 174 weekly flights between the two countries. We look to focus on multiple segments in the country like MiCE, weddings, FITs, family travellers

and extended weekend travel-

**India is our market for future expansion** not only because of the number of tourists but because of the accessibility, visa free entry and more than 174 weekly flights between the two countries

dia in the past few years, we felt the need to fix our visa policies first. Last year, we had revamped the visa policies for 80 countries. including India, which allows visa free arrival for Indians into Oatar. Then we had our market study and appointed tourism representative office based in Mumbai. We want to know our industry partners and build a good relationship with them in the Indian market."

Al-Qurese further adds, "India is our market for future expansion not only because of the number of tourists but because of the accessibility,

tar's hotels are under four and five-star categories with great meeting facilities and two convention and exhibition halls in Doha. In 2017, Qatar recorded over 3.33.708 Indian tourists. For the period January to April this year, it recorded 1, 56, 726 Indian tourists, an increase of 15 per cent as compared to the year 2017 for the

same period.

### **Oatar** attractions

The tourism board aims to promote Oatar as an affordable luxury destination with premium offerings

Besides its resorts, beaches, shopping and F&B offerings, it will showcase its culture, desert and marine experience

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dity Conclave to be held in Gurugram on Jan 6, 2018

lers given that we are a short haul destination from India." The tourism board aims to promote Qatar as an affordable luxury destination with BreakingNews

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## The Suryaa eyes MiCE

The Suryaa New Delhi, has refurbished its public areas and banqueting facilities to meet guest expectations and offer add-on value. This year, the hotel will focus on boosting its MiCE business.

TT Bureau

he Suryaa New Delhi, has undergone a refurbishment of its public areas and has also upgraded its F&B services at the hotel. The hotel's General Manager, Dhananjay Kumar, explains that today, the best products are available everywhere but if service and personal touch is missing, one cannot survive in this competitive market. "This is where we stand out. Our USP is providing personalised service, exceeding guest expectations and making sure they are looked after. Along with this, we understand that upgrading our products is also important. Thus, all our public areas, banqueting facilities have been redone. Also, the menu at our F&B outlets has been applauded by the guests and we hope to continue to offer them an elaborate spread of international cuisine. We sell what is demanded by our guests," says Kumar.

In terms of marketing and promotions, the hotel partici-

### **MiCE** in focus

Since the summer season in Delhi is based on MiCE business, the hotel has revamped its banqueting services to attract MiCE travellers. It has many breakaway rooms equipped with audio-visual conference facilities



working hard to increase its digital presence in the market. Kumar points out that the focus area is to drive traction through the hotel website for which the portal has been revamped. "While our OTA partners sell rooms online, this year, we want to sell the minor operating departments independently through digital platforms. For example, guests who stay for more than three nights can get laundry services at a competitive price or book

While our OTA partners sell rooms online, this year, we want to sell the minor operating departments independently through digital platforms. The aim is to convert traction of in-house guests

pates at domestic and international trade fairs and has been

a spa and salon services at a discounted rate. The aim is to



con-

vert

stream of revenue generation, the hotel will also focus on MiCE business in the city. Kumar elaborates, "Since the summer season in the city is based on long stays, corporate and MiCE business, we have revamped



o ur banqueting services to attract MiCE travellers. We have many breakaway rooms equipped with state-ofthe-art audio-visual conference facilities to cater to the segment."

Social media is also a focus area and the hotel has been inviting bloggers to review the property. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are some channels being used to drive awareness. Kumar further adds that liking a page and following it increases reach, but it does not bring in guests. The hotel has been using its

s oftware to get guest f e e d b a c k and figure out what percentage of the same would be a repeat clientele.



mandar.kelkar@buzzindia.in ritesh.ahluwalia@buzzindia.in www.holland.com

## Radar now on Latin America

Senkay Tours and Travels is targeting the Latin American market for the leisure segment of travel to India and is devising new itineraries for its inbound guests from Italy, Spain and Russia.

### TT Bureau

s a company, Senkay Tours Aand Travels specialises in the Italian and Spanish markets and this year, it is eying travellers from Latin America. According to Anil Kumar, Managing Director, Senkay Tours and Travels, the cultural ethos of the company is in sync with the travellers from Latin America and thus the company will aim to leverage this fact to attract more travellers to the country. He says, "We are targeting largely the leisure market from this new market but with Senkay Global division, which is dealing with tours and event management, we are getting actively involved in the MiCE business as well. Our research and development teams are quite active in devising newer itineraries, researching new and potential markets and collaborating with new partners."

Kumar feels that India's unique proposition is its unmatched hospitality but the tour operators selling the destination lack in terms of knowledge about the requirements of the foreign guests. He explains that this gap can be bridged by getting to know the foreign guests better but before that, it is more important for the service providers to know India better. "In fact, I believe that most of the destination management companies do not have enough knowledge to present India as



**With Senkay** Global division dealing with tours and event management, we are getting actively involved in MiCE business

a favourable tourist destination. Foreign guests have many apprehensions about the country which means that they are not adequately informed by their respective partners in India." Kumar further claims that there are issues with lack of proper infrastructure and unfortunately not enough is being done neither by the industry nor the state level authorities. "It is often observed that various meetings conducted amongst the government authorities and trade is more of a symbolic gesture which is not taken to any concrete conclusion," he adds.

## Mid-segment is the future

Colonel's Retreat plans to enhance the quality of its existing properties and boost business through marketing.

#### TT Bureau

 olonel's Retreat offers properties strategically located in the capital city coupled with handcrafted holidays to non-group travellers or FITs. Arun Khanna, Director, Colonel's Retreat, says, "We specialise in catering guests with our personalised services and plan to keep improving than look at expanding properties. We have been successful so far with our product offer and value-add, and we aim to continue following this model."

In terms of promotional plans, Khanna explains that the

digital platform is the new way to market one's company. "We are using digital marketing tools like SEO, SMO, Google Adwords to increase visibility of the company. Apart from this, we participate in travel trade shows like GITB.

Identifying a phenomenon in the hospitality industry, Khanna points out that future opportunity for hotel chains lay in the mid-segment market, the space where Colonel's Retreat is already operating in. "The base of travellers both inbound and domestic is increasing, the e-Visa facility has boosted tourism in general. A traveller cannot always spend \$300-\$400 on hotel rooms, they want deals on the hotel stay and it is thus important to bridge the gap between budget and high-end accommodation choices."



# Agents network at GTM 2018

The 44<sup>th</sup> Germany Travel Mart (GTM) opened in Dresden, Germany and saw the presence of tour operators and journalists from around the world. After a short welcome of the delegates at the Church of Our Lady of Dresden, the inaugural ceremony took place at the Kulturpalast Dresden. The Indian delegation comprised 11 agents and six media people.









FAMILYALBUM

















## **AGENTS**

# Parfait's properties on the cards

Parfait Hospitality will soon launch its 28-room resort property in Manali, followed by a 56-room hotel in Zirakpur which will be equipped with all the necessary MiCE facilities.

Bureau

hotel management, en-Alargement, marketing and branding company, Parfait Hospitality provides consistent, economical and comfortable hospitality experience

## **Target** Group

✓Largely focussed on the domestic segment of travel, Parfait Hospitality receives its guests through various tour operators, OTAs and corporates

✓If expectations are met, the company will do 10 per cent of inbound business across its properties

at their hotels. The company currently works with hotels on three models-management, lease and branding and soon will reintroduce its marketing model in 2018-19.

Raman Tuli, Managing Director, Parfait Hospitality, informs that the company had inaugurated its 48-room property in Shimla in October 2017 and will now launch its fourstar, 28-room resort property in Manali by mid-2018. The new properties in the pipeline include one 56-room hotel in Zirakpur which also has banqueting facilities of 15,000 sq ft along with a rooftop and F&B services. "We recorded a major dip in business, almost 26 per cent, in 2014 but now

we are recording 10 per cent year on year growth and hope to perform much better in the future."

Largely focussed on the domestic segment of travel, the company receives its

guests through various tour

operators. OTAs and corpo-

rates. Tuli points out, "Our

Bikaner property is the only

one which is pitched to the

inbound guests. If our expec-

tations are met then we will do

about 10 per cent of inbound

business across our properties. At the property in Jim Corbett, we outsource series departure tours for the hotel."

He further explains that almost 85 per cent of the company's business is sourced

through the travel agent net-

work. "I feel that in an attempt

to compete with others on

the digital platform, we may

have to lower the price of the

product to sell it in volume,

which would eventually lower

the value of the product. The

**G** Our Bikaner property is the only one which is pitched to the

per cent of inbound business across our properties

lower rates may provide direct benefit to the company for a short run but in the longer run, destroy the travel agent network," says Tuli.

Apart from participation at major travel trade shows

inbound guests. If our expectations are met then we will do about 10 and advertisements in

## AHS to market Sri Lanka

Absolute Hospitality Services (AHS) India, the sister company of Rockstays, has been appointed as the sales representative for Sri Lanka-based Amago Tours.

### 🚺 TT Bureau

Amago Tours specialises Ain crafting amazing experiences for its guests while handling customised FIT and group travellers visiting the tropical Indian Ocean. According to Asanka Nanayakkara, Director and Owner, Amago Tours, the destination is popular among all segments of travellers ranging from honeymooners, FIT travellers and family groups to large corporate travel. "We are happy about our association with India and really excited to receive Indian clients," says Nanayakkara. Absolute Hospitality Services is a tour-



companies and hotels covers countries in Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe.

Anuradha Singh, Director, AHS India explains that as the

Absolute Hospitality Services is a tourism advisory and marketing company and its portfolio of destination management companies and hotels cover countries in Asia, Middle East, Africa and Europe

ism advisory and marketing company and its portfolio of destination management

exclusive marketing and sales partner of Amgo Tours in India, the company will use both tra-



ditional marketing and sales channels, new age technology systems and social media to boost business. "We will promote Sri Lanka as a destination with a focus on personalised and curated travel experiences. These will include Colombo, Bentota, Galle, Kandy among other unique destinations within Sri Lanka and also activities such as surfing, whale watching, heritage sightseeing, etc. Our target market will essentially be B2B with a focus on Tier-I cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, etc," says Singh.

## Visit Victoria visits Mumbai

print media, the company

makes use of various

digital marketing tools

and social media to

promote its brand

and markets its

products.



Carmen Smith, Head of International Markets, Visit Victoria, recently met up with key tour operators in Mumbai over an informal get-together. It was her first visit to the country and showed the state of Victoria's commitment to the India market.

## Turkish Airlines is game



Turkish Airlines, the official title sponsor of the EuroLeague Basketball championship, renewed its commitment to the game in which Real Madrid became the champion team of the exciting Turkish Airlines EuroLeague Final Four 2018, following a decisive victory at Belgrade's Štark Arena in Serbia. The EuroLeague Basketball championship was established in 2000 as the most important basketball competition in Europe

# Travel trade engage & interact

FAMILYALBUM

Intime Travels recently organised a gala evening in Mumbai for the travel trade partners to allow them to network and discuss future business opportunities. The event saw the who's who of the tourism and hospitality industry mark their attendance to meet and greet their industry colleagues.



## HOTELS

# Treehouse on an expansion drive

Treehouse Hotels and Resorts recorded an increase in occupancy but stagnant average room rates last year. This year, the company has signed up two new properties in Jodhpur and will target to market itself extensively through digital platforms and an increased trade connect.

## TT Bureau

reehouse Hotels and Resorts, a mid segment hotel brand operates 17 hotels in business and leisure locations like NCR, Bhiwadi, Goa, Neemrana, Ranthambore, Jodhpur, Chail and Jaipur. The hotel group takes pride in offering large spaces and in some cases Club facilities are provided for the local non-residents. It's palace hotels, located mostly in Rajasthan, come replete with either heritage certification or are done in the palatial style, while the serviced apartments are large and spacious with a full kitchenette in locations with availability of entertainment hubs and restaurants in the vicinity.



Goa and the hill stations. Our hotel portfolio consists of smaller inventory but higher value

Richa K Singh, Executive Vice President, Treehouse Hotels Resorts Serviced Apartments, informs that the company has recently signed up with two new heritage hotels in Jodhpur with 47 keys and 25 keys. "We have also launched our 63 keys property in Neemrana in May which aims to be a great getaway for travellers from Delhi/NCR. Our primary focus remains on expansion in Rajasthan, Goa and the hill stations. Our hotel portfolio consists of smaller inventory but higher value." Singh further points out that this year, though the company recorded an average occupancy of 58 per cent, an increase of three per cent from last year across its properties, the average room rates remained static or even dipped at some locations. She adds, "The property at Ranthambore picked up occupancy by two per cent but the room rates remained static. Our average occupancy has shot up also because we added another ho-

#### tel in Gurugram this year."

On the marketing and promotional front, the company will use various digital platforms and word of mouth to generate business. "The digital platform has been our first approach towards marketing. Showcasing ourselves at important trade shows is an integral part of the plan while we partner with various online platforms to create synergies. The digital marketing front includes our own website, campaigns on Facebook which have received fabulous response in terms of branding and lead generation." The hotel chain is actively engaging with ADTOI and IATO and has become members of these associations to boost inbound and domestic segments alike.



## HOTELS

## WelcomHeritage in Nainital

Get ready for summers with a stay at the newly-opened WelcomHeritage Ashdale in Nainital—an old manor from the British era, offering the best in comfort and local experiences in the midst of nature.

TT Bureau

WelcomHeritage has opened an all new property in Nainital—WelcomHeritage Ashdale in Nainital, taking its portfolio size to a total of 41. The colonial structure which was built by the English as their summer residence is now owned by the Royalty of Sahaspur.

Sunil Gupta, CEO, WelcomHeritage shared, "Adding WelcomHeritage Ashdale in our group is a part of our expansion



Like every WelcomHeritage property, Ashdale is also a true reflection of Indian culture. We are proud to have it in our family. With this, the group has now increased the list to 41 properties in India

plans for 2018. This heritage building, which is now converted into a hotel, is a unique property, nestled amidst the green oaks and deodars. What makes this property more unique is serenity of the location and old-world charm which is still untouched. Like every WelcomHeritage property, Ashdale has also been a true reflection of Indian culture. We are extremely proud to have it in our WelcomHeritage family. With this new addition, the group has increased the list to 41 properties in India."

The bungalow, which belongs to the 19th century, has been renovated and refurbished to convert it to a posh boutique property, which will meet the standards of the high-profile guests that will be staying here. The hotel has 24 meticulously designed guest rooms with balconies and verandahs, overlooking the green spaces in and around. The galleries provide a glimpse into the bygone era through historical pictures. The who want to explore the surrounding areas can request the hotel for a nature walk up to Dorothy Seat, Cheena Peak and Snow View. Guests can also explore picnic options to Bhimtal, Saat Tal, Naukuchia Tal and many other beautiful locations around Nainital. Those who do not want to go too far can opt for horse riding or sailing on the tranquil lake.

## Minar's Vilasa eyes French market

After recording success for its luxury brand—Vilasa, in the US and Latin American market, Minar Travels is now planning to introduce the product in its French market this year.



Vilasa is the luxury brand of Minar Travels India, which aims at a new approach to luxury travel in India. "We at Vilasa, with our in-depth research, honest commitment to quality and personalised services are confident that our luxury travel tours in India and beyond are the best-of-its-kind. Our thoughtfully designed tour programmes aim at a new approach to luxury travel so that one can explore India and its neighbouring countries beyond the well-known paths of conventional travel," says HS Duggal, Managing Director, Minar Travels.

Coupled with vast infrastructure and network of exceptional heritage properties



Currently, we are not looking at large numbers with Vilasa and are targeting few, high-value clients without diluting the product **J** 

and top hotels in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Minar Travels' luxury product helps its clients with memorable travel experiences. "We launched this product in the US and Latin America and are now looking at introducing the same in the French market this year. The response has been very good and in our third year of operations, we recorded nearly 200 per cent growth. We are not looking at large numbers with Vilasa and are targeting few, highvalue clients without diluting the product," adds Duggal.

## Going Beyond

Minar Travels' thoughtfully designed tour programmes aim at a new approach to luxury travel so that one can explore India and its neighbouring countries beyond the well-known paths of conventional travel

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furniture narrates the story of a gracious lifestyle.

The guests here will be in for a culinary fest at the multi cuisine restaurant - Green Oak, serving Indian, continental and Chinese cuisines. Apart from these, there is also a picturesque tennis court. For those

## Explore around

←For those who want to explore the surroundings can go for a nature walk up to Dorothy Seat, Cheena Peak and Snow View. Guests can also explore picnic options to Bhimtal, Saat Tal, Naukuchia Tal

## IHCL signs 2<sup>nd</sup> Ginger in Vizag

■ The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) signed a new Ginger hotel in Visakhapatnam. It will be Ginger's second hotel in the city. Ginger Hotels' portfolio has 45 operating hotels and seven hotels in the pipeline. The announcement reflects the company's strategic domestic expansion to drive growth momentum. The new Ginger in Visakhapatnam with 56 rooms, an all-day diner, meeting room and a fitness centre, is located at Gajuwaka amidst a commercial hub with close proximity to companies like Tata Motors, Nestle, BHEL, GAIL and many others. The hotel is slated to open mid-2019.

## HOTELS

# The Park enters Tier-II market

With the launch of Zone by The Park, Jodhpur, The Park Hotels is targeting Tier-II cities for this contemporary yet affordable brand. The hotel chain aims at 20 Zone properties by the end of 2020.



he Zone by The Park is currently present in Coimbatore, Jaipur, Chennai ORR, Raipur and Bengaluru with upcoming properties in Mahabalipuram, Coorg, Goa, Gurugram, Indore, Kolkata, Igatpuri, Lucknow, Pondichery, Srinagar, Surat, Vijayawada and Noida. "We are launching The Zone by The Park, Amritsar, which will be commissioned in the next two years. We plan to have 20 Zone properties by the end of 2020. The target segment for these properties is largely the Tier-II cities with a mix of both leisure and corporate segment of travel," says Rohit Arora, Area General Manager, The Park Hotels



We plan to have 20 Zone properties by the end of 2020. The target segment is the Tier-II cities with a mix of both leisure and corporate travel

The hotel chain recorded a growth of almost 14 per cent in ADRs in 2017-18 over the year 2016-17 while the chain recorded year-round occupancy of about 90 per cent. Arora identifies that the Zone brand of the hotel chain is very contemporary yet affordable and thus fits the market in Tier-II cities where there is a gap of good quality hospitality services. He says, "We felt that the market in smaller cities has a lot of potential and at the same time there is a vacant market for good hotels."

Identifying hospitality trends in the Indian market, Arora feels that imbalance between demand and supply created over the years has now settled in metros like Delhi/NCR and the industry is witnessing an upward trend.



On the marketing and promotional front, the hotel chain will continue to participate in travel trade shows at domestic and international platforms while it will also use the new media platforms and digital marketing tools to boost sales and brand awareness, adds Arora.

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# Show REPORT

**EXPERIENCE THE LUXURY** 



## Ushering in the era of luxury

The third edition of Travel Luxury Show, recently held in Jaipur, recorded nearly 1800 meetings over two days. The show was marked by intensive one-on-one interactions between 30 exhibitors and 60 buyers, and also included knowledge sessions on the changing dynamics of luxury travel in India.

"

#### 7 Simranjeet Singh Arora

Representatives from various hotels like AccorHotels, Ayada Maldives, Corinthia Hotels and Resorts, Dusit Hotels and Resorts, RARE, etc. showcased a variety of luxury offerings at their properties to cater to the Indian luxury travel segment. Various tourism boards like Holland Tourism, Department of Tourism, Philippines, Korea Tourism Organisation, participated at the show to educate and spread awareness about the destination and its products that can be offered to the high-end Indian travellers.

The show was inaugurated by **Guldeep Singh Sahni**, Past President, Outbound Tour Operators Association of India (OTOAI). According to him, luxury is a variable concept, defined by each individual differently. Sahni believes that in today's era of travel, luxury is no longer about the grandest hotel a client can stay in or the First Class seat in an aircraft; There is no set definition for luxury because the trends in this segment change constantly. The only way an exhibitor can sell product in the market is by way of staying updated about new trends in the industry

in fact luxury has become all about the experience of the journey and the destination alike. He elaborated, "Coming here at a show like this is luxury in itself. I feel that there is no set definition for luxury because the trends in this segment change constantly. The only way an exhibitor can sell his or her product in the market is by way of staying updated about new trends in the industry and this is where a show like this becomes very relevant." Acknowledging the latest trends in the market, Sahni felt that those who offer customised and personalised holidays are like 'luxury

travel designers,' who do not only sell luxurious products but also add to a traveller's life experience.

The show presented a panel discussion where in **Christine Mukharji**, Director—India, ANTO India; **Manish Kriplani**, MD, Baywatch Travels and **Shoba Mohan**, Partner, RARE India discussed how the concept of luxury travel was changing over the years amongst Indian travellers. The panel highlighted that the Indian traveller has evolved and thus for him, luxury is no longer about the Business Class flight or a five-star hotel; it is more about the experience and the quality of service that makes the holiday luxurious. Mohan explained that it was important to understand the requirements of the clients before suggesting a product while Kriplani felt that many times, travellers booked luxury holidays to brag about them later.

The show also offered a platform to exhibitors and buyers to interact in prescheduled B2B table-top meetings. This format, lauded by all attendees, allowed them to discuss potential business in a time-bound manner. Sahni further explained, "Buyers can get to know about the availability of luxury products in the market from various exhibitors present at the show. The exhibitors on the other hand can then understand the needs of the clients and match them with the products, by way of customisation and personalisation. Travel Luxury Show always surprises me even after I have been attending this show year after year and helps me to understand what luxury means to the world." 🐓



## It's time for business

Travel Luxury Show offered a platform to exhibitors and buyers to interact in pre-scheduled B2B table-top meetings. This format allowed them to discuss potential business in a time-bound manner.

## **Exhibitors**



CHRISTINE MUKHARJI Director - India Austrian National Tourist office

All the buyers had an in-depth knowledge about the destinations we were showcasing. The show had a good

selection of travel agents who actually meant business. Meeting their expectations and working with them is the way forward and we are looking forward to it.



Director Luxury Sales-India, AccorHotels It's always a pleasure meeting

**TEKLA MAIRA** 

pleasure meeting new people, with new ideas. It's almost the beginning of holiday season and we get

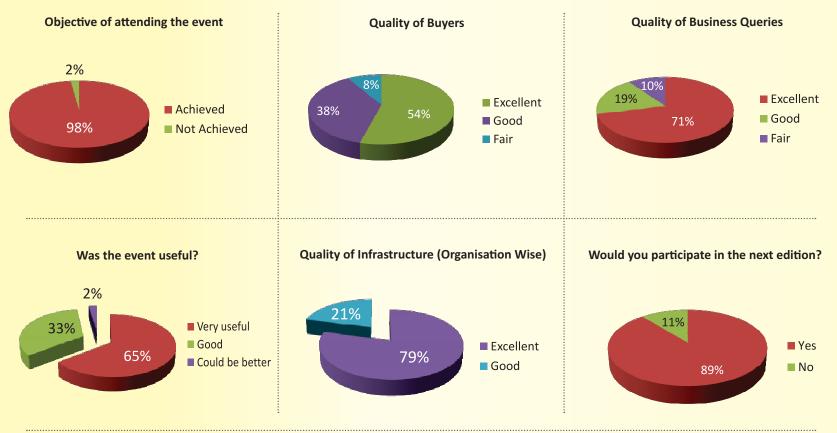
to know the demands of the client which will further help us to make amendments in our business structure as per the requirements of the market.



SHOBA MOHAN Founder - Partner Rare India

Being associated to one of the best shows in the country has been a pleasure. The quality of buyers has only increased

year on year. Two features of the show are pre-fixed meetings between exhibitors and buyers, and the precision in terms of time with which the meetings are conducted.



Exhibitor's feedback as received from the show



SHANNON CREADO Director of Sales and Marketing Anantara- Kalutara Luxury Resort

Travel Luxury Show brings in travel agents from across the country. Buyers from Ahmedabad and Chennai have

shown great interest in Sri Lanka as a promising destination for the luxury segment of travel. I hope this interest will contribute to the growth of tourism in Sri Lanka.



SUNIL MATHAPATI Country Manager - India, Bahrain Tourism & Exhibitions Authority

This show gives us a chance to understand the requirements of the dynamic market. To understand luxury,

we would need to meet different people but this show gave us that one platform where we could meet most of the players from the industry and discuss the same at length.

SANDEEP DUTTA Marketing Manager, Korea Tourism Organisation New Delhi

This is the second time we are attending this show. The closed door and fixed appointments format is one of the

things I really like about the show. Every exhibitor is able to execute a fair amount of meetings over a span of two days. It's very rare to find such potential events. Travel

( A DI

## TRAVEL LUXURY SHOW



























## of the show





















## **Exhibitors**



**KARAN SINGH** Chairman & Co-founder 1524 Bespoke Travel Experiences

Around 30 exhibitors came together to display their products. With the outbound season just around the corner,

we got a chance to meet with travel agents doing outbound tourism. We could get a clear picture about the requirements to provide relevant products and services.



KUNAL MUNSHAW Partner – Avant Garde Consulting

This platform introduced us to new trends in the markets and demands of buyers. The platform made it convenient for us to showcase

our products.Since the definition of luxury varies from one another, we were able to understand the same from the perspective of the travel agents.

Sales Manager – Global Accounts, Taj Hotels Palaces **Resorts Safaris** About 1800 oneon-one meetings included a large number of partners. We met many new travel agents

from cities like Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Mumbai who are focused on the outbound tourism business. I feel this is one of the most potential shows in the industry.



**CLAUDINE N TRIOLO** Director - Sales and Marketing, Rayavadee, Krabi

With the huge number of Indians flying into Thailand, we have taken the initiative to understand the

latest trends in the luxury segment. Travel agents have shown keen interest in Thailand and I think this show will help us grow. The show has been very professional.

**MOUMITA MUKHERJEE** PAUL.

#### Head – Sales and Marketing, India, Centara Hotels and Resorts

This is our second consecutive time at the show. Travel Luxury Show has been very prosperous for our

business. It's more of an investment to come to the show and meet over 60 buyers over a short span of two days. For us, this show is perfect and a great experience.

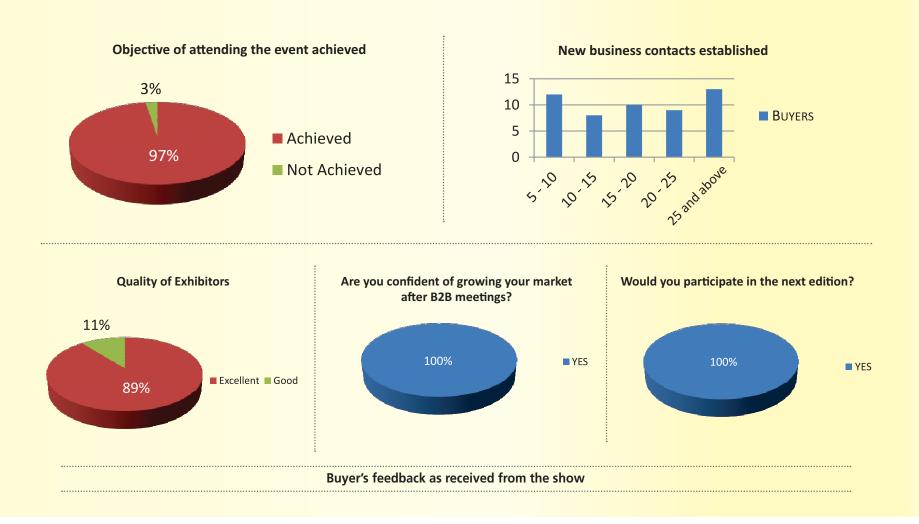


VIKAS SHARMA Assistant Vice President, Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

I was able to enhance my reach and showcase my product. The products and services offered to

travel agents in the luxury segment can be well showcased with the closed door format. We were able to understand the demands of the buyers to cater them better.

## **Buyers**



**RACHNA JUNEJA** 

## **Buyers**

#### **GULDEEP SINGH SAHNI** Managing Director Weldon Tours and Travels

I really appreciate the selection process of buyers and sellers as well as the amount of time dedicated for

one-to-one interaction. We are able to learn about many new products and also share our requirements with the exhibitors to bridge the knowledge gap in the market.

#### MANISH KRIPLANI Managing Director Baywatch Travels

I am able to meet old colleagues from the industry as well as network and be familiarized with the new people. Travel

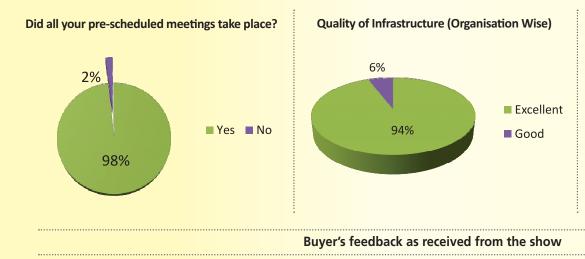
Luxury Show always brings new products to the fore and is an important tool to update the travel fraternity of the latest trends and demands from the market.

#### SHRUTI SHARMA Associate Vice President -

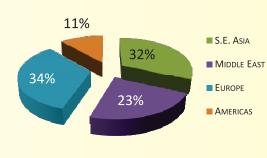
Luxury Escapades Cox and Kings This show is an excellent platform to meet hoteliers and partners. We are made aware about offers from sellers



and then make a decision if they suffice our requirements for future business prospects. This is a great show with a potential to bring in business in the luxury segment of travel.



#### Destinations have seen most business negotiations



#### **MAITREYEE PATEL** Director Pathfinder Holidays

The show has been informative in the context of dealing with the luxury products. To cater

to a huge luxury



market like India, it is very important for us to stay updated about the trending luxury products available in the market to fulfil the requirements of our client.

#### SAHIL WAHID Director

#### Revel Travel Links

Sometimes we do not get a chance to meet some standalone properties and suppliers, which were easily available

to us at the show. We have been able to exchange information and discuss our requirements in detail with the exhibitors.

#### **GAURAV SHARMA** Director

Luxury Living The format of the

show is the highlight where a 15-minute window allowed us one-to-one interaction with a

large number of exhibitors. This interesting show was also instrumental in showcasing new products and services in the luxury travel market.



ANSHU TEJUJA Managing Director, Ashoka Dream Holidays

The show offered an amazing collection of exhibitors. Even though we were aware about the products offered

by many exhibitors at the show, there were many new exhibitors and various new products in the market to learn about from this show.

#### **REENA RAVI SACHDEVA** Founder Travel Arena

Travel luxury Show is focused, well paced and relevant for today's market needs. In one day's time, we are able

to meet around 30 new suppliers from the market and learn about the various products trending in the market. I would say it's a very well-organised show.



#### forward to newer associations with suppliers in order to match the demands of our clientele.

This is a win-win situation for all where the exhibitors too can understand the needs of the buyers to customise their offerings for the same.





# Mark your calendar

#### For more details:

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