

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP

SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

ddppl.com

TRAVTALK®

TravTalkIndia.com

PASS IT ON

NAME	SEEN
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

Published from : ★ India ★ Middle East



Superfast B2B Travel Portal



www.fly24hrs.com

Grow Your Business With
The Fastest Growing Company

**Book Bali Packages
with 'LIVE' Inventory**

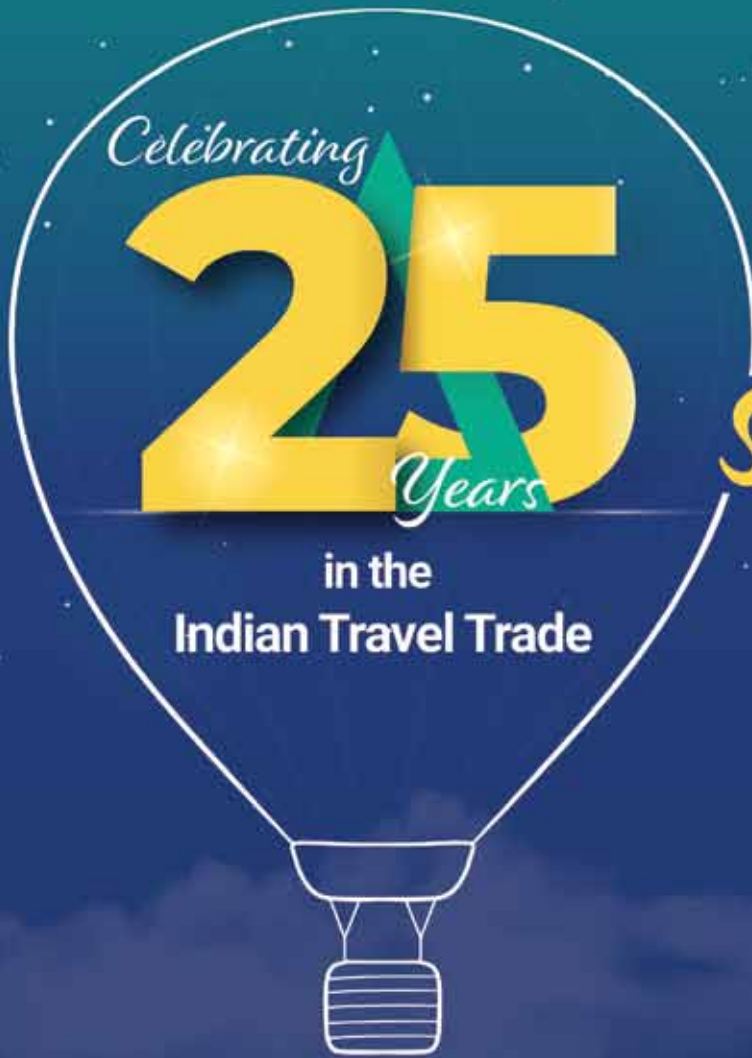
Live Inventory of 30+ Hotels/Resorts/Villas
& more coming up soon.

#Bali DMC

B2B Portal - www.uandiholidays.net

ASEGŌ

Global Assistance • Travel Insurance



This success belongs to You

as much as it does to us.

This New Year... Here's to continuing our journey together-stronger than ever!

For partnership or more details, scan the QR code

Note: Assistance services are provided by Asego. Please note that insurance is underwritten by an IRDAI authorised underwriter and is a subject matter of solicitation. The content expressed in this poster is for information purpose only and it does not accept any liability of any sort unless confirmed by an authorized representative of Asego. All insurance policies are sold under the Corporate Agency of Asego Insurance LLP bearing IRDAI registration no. CA0776

24x7 helpline: +91 8448582205 | customersupport@asego.in | claims@asego.in





All Your Favourite Platforms Combined to give you the best prices!

Flights	Hotels	Transfers	Activities	Trains	Cruises

Learn to design your holiday in 3 minutes - Join our daily 10 minute Webinar.

Agent? - Great prices and earning potential. Create a Login.

Have Travel Selling Experience? - Work from home options available. Talk to us.

Need Travel Planning Assistance?
Talk to us.



[Hello@SpeedbirdTravels.com](mailto>Hello@SpeedbirdTravels.com)

[+91-9623671110](tel:+91-9623671110)



experience
Oman

A Gift for life



Beauty Has An Address

experienceoman.om

seema.datt@buzztravelmarketing.com, arjun.chadha@buzztravelmarketing.com, rajdeep.ta@buzztravelmarketing.com

experience
abu dhabi



05 Days from
US\$ 669*
per person

Abu Dhabi Family Special

Inclusions:

- 04 Nights Stay in Abu Dhabi City Hotel
- Daily Breakfast
- Return Abu Dhabi International Airport Transfers on Private
- Abu Dhabi City Tour on SIC
- The National Aquarium Abu Dhabi Ticket Only
- Half Day BAPS Hindu Temple Tour in Abu Dhabi on SIC
- Yas Island Any 2 Parks Tickets only (Select from SeaWorld® or Ferrari World™ or Warner Bros. World™ or Yas Water World)

Remarks: Rates are based on DBL/TWN sharing basis & are Commissionable to Agents. Rates and Offers are subject to change without prior notice & are subject to availability. Valid till 31st March'2025 (Except Peak Season). *T&C Apply.

Ottila International Pvt. Ltd.

Mumbai (Registered Office & Corporate Headquarters) : 022 6720 5000

Ahmedabad: +91 93 7612 0982

Bengaluru: +91 96 0648 4185

Chennai: +91 44 4555 8582

Coimbatore: +91 99 5271 7750

Hyderabad: +91 88 8501 5970

Indore: +91 73 1491 1374

Kochi: +91 75 9386 3903

Kolkata: +91 98 3011 9561

New Delhi: +91 11 4141 4242

Nashik: +91 25 3231 0044

Pune: +91 20 4002 6960



For Enquiries & Bookings, please contact any of our offices | Website: www.ottila.com | B2B Portal: www.ottila.net

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP

SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

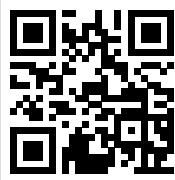
adppl.com



TRAVTALK®

TravTalkIndia.com

Scan & Share



Published from : ★ India ★ Middle East

Reach over
6,00,000
Trade professionals daily

Advertise now
www.travelTVIndia.news

Hoping against hope Union Budget 2025

Tourism industry is keeping its fingers crossed with hopes that the Union Budget 2025 will give some relief in TCS and GST as far as outbound is concerned and help encourage investment within India to bridge the demand-supply gap.



Rajiv Mehra
President, IATO

“ We expect the Budget to be in sync with the reality of the industry. Our industry should be treated as deemed exporter at par with the IT Industry under export of services. The parameters of ‘export of services’ in section 2(6) of IGST Act, 2017 may be relaxed in the case of tour operators and

the services of tour operators earning forex for the country may be accorded with the status of ‘export of services’.”



Jyoti Mayal
Chairperson, THSC

“ Union Budget is the right time for the government to go beyond infrastructure and invest in stakeholders, service providers, skilling, upskilling, and most importantly, the youth of India. The tourism and hospitality sector faces a demand-supply gap in skilled manpower, currently at 60 per cent. With the industry expanding at a rate of 20-25 per cent per year, the shortage of skilled workers is becoming more pronounced.”

“ Our budget expectations remain consistent with our year-long advocacy. The hospitality and tourism industry deserves recognition as a major employment generator, contributing over 9 per cent to employment and substantially to GDP. To capitalise on its potential, the government must address key issues like granting industry status to this highly capital-intensive sector.”



KB Kachru
President, HAI

“ Our expectation from the Union Budget this year is high. We are hopeful that the government will consider all our long-pending demands and act upon them. We want the government to give financial assistance via subsidised loan rates to encourage small operators, provide tax relief, incentives on foreign exchange, reduced GST for ITTA members on purchase of new EVs.”



Kanwarjeet Singh Sawhney
General Secretary, ITTA

Contd. on page 11 ▶

TAFI pledges to green tourism

TAFI, set for its Vietnam convention from 17-20 January under the theme, ‘Tourism for Tomorrow, Protecting the Planet’, aims to promote eco-friendly travel via its members.



Hazel Jain

The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) is spearheading a movement towards environmentally responsible tourism with its convention theme, ‘Tourism for Tomorrow, Protecting the Planet’. TAFI Annual Convention will be held in Ninh Binh Province of Vietnam from 17 to 20 January 2025.

Elaboration on the convention theme, **Ajay Prakash**, National President, TAFI, said, “It is impor-



Ajay Prakash
National President, TAFI



tant that we, as travel agents, keep in mind the fact that the resources of this planet are finite and tourism thrives, essentially, on the natural beauty and diversity of the planet. We, therefore, have a moral responsibility to contribute towards the protection, preservation and nurturing of the planet.”

The event aims to bring together industry leaders, travel professionals, and key stakeholders for insightful discussions. Prakash

added, “Tourism has grown exponentially, and our government is also looking to make this industry in India a one trillion-dollar economy as its contribution to the GDP. At TAFI, we firmly believe that the growth of tourism must be harmoniously balanced with a deepening commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible travel practices. So, this is one of the key discussions that we are going to have – on inclusive, responsible and sustainable tourism.”

The other sessions on NDC will address agents' queries. Yet another discussion will be held on the emerging technologies. ↓

cozmotravel
Your Trusted DMC
Cordially invites you for

The Leading Travel Show in Asia



30, 31 January & 1 February 2025
Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai

Don't miss the biggest travel event of the year!



Visit us at

Stand no.: P-C300

Discover exclusive travel deals and innovative solutions at our booth. Let's connect and begin new journeys together!

holidays@cozmotravelworld.com

+91 22 71004499

EXPANDING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES GPS 2025-2026

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

APP FEATURES



 GLOBAL SIM	 TRAVEL INSURANCE	 NEWS ROOM	 LATEST OFFERS	 MARKET PLACE
 VISA INFO	 CURRENCY CONVERTOR	 LANGUAGE TRANSLATOR	 CARD EXCHANGE	 EVENTS DETAILS
 ADD DOCUMENT	 CONNECTIONS	 TAX UPDATES	 NTO UPDATES	 MAPS

Download GPS iCONNECT App and register to enjoy premium event experience



DOWNLOAD GPS iCONNECT APP TO REGISTER FOR RESPECTIVE EVENT (If you have ever registered and attended GPS events since 2013 try logging in using your email and use default password as 123456 and update your profile and select the event you want to attend.)

GPS 2025

 NAGPUR 11-12 Feb 2025 Hotel Centre Point	 VISAKHAPATNAM 27-28 Feb 2025 Novotel Varun Beach	 BENGALURU *TBA 2025	 AHMEDABAD Jul 2025	 CHANDIGARH *TBA 2025	 PUNE *TBA 2025	 KOLKATA *TBA 2025	 KOCHI *TBA 2025
--	--	-------------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

GPS 2026

 NAGPUR *TBA 2026	 HYDERABAD *TBA 2026	 GUWAHATI *TBA 2026	 AHMEDABAD *TBA 2026	 INDORE *TBA 2026	 KOLKATA *TBA 2026	 JAIPUR *TBA 2026	 KOCHI *TBA 2026
----------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------

Exhibitor enquiries:

Call: +91 9225248070, +91 9820224272 for details email: harmandeep@gps-india.com | madhu@gps-india.com

EDWIN PARTNER TURESPAÑA	EDWIN PARTNER Andalucía	AIRLINE PARTNER IndiGo	GST CONSULTING PARTNER GMJ	GLOBAL CRUISE PARTNER NORWEGIAN	NDC PARTNER VERTEIL	GLOBAL CELLULAR PARTNER next	TECHNOLOGY PARTNER influence	B2B PARTNER TDO	MICE PARTNER AVNI	DOMESTIC CRUISE PARTNER TUI	TRAVEL INSURANCE PARTNER STAR
WHATSAPP COMMERCE PARTNER DoubleTick	LUXURY PARTNER JASTANS	MARKETING PARTNER EntReps	EDWIN PARTNER Overland Escape	EDWIN PARTNER Ethiopian	GDS PARTNER Travelogy	VISA INFO PARTNER Cebu	CHARDHAM PARTNER TTP	GPS INITIATIVES EduX			

(Fitur) to focus on India's strength

FITUR 2025, to be organised by IFEMA MADRID from 22-26 January 2025, will spotlight India's growth as a leading outbound tourism market. With an expanding middle class, rising disposable incomes, and diverse travel interests, India is increasingly shaping global tourism trends while looking at boosting its inbound numbers too.



TT Bureau

India stands out as one of the world's most dynamic outbound tourism markets, driven by its rapidly growing middle class, rising disposable incomes, and a broadening spectrum of travel preferences. FITUR 2025, scheduled in Madrid from 22-26 January this year, is expected to highlight India's growth as one of the largest source markets for international travel.

India's tourism potential

With over 80 million passport holders and an outbound tourism expenditure of \$42 billion in 2024, India is now firmly established as one of the most promising source markets for international tourism. According to IndBiz, the country's growth trajectory positions it as a powerhouse in outbound travel.

Europe's appeal to Indians

Europe is one of the most popular



India is now firmly established as one of the most promising source markets for international tourism

destinations for Indian travelers, with nearly 20 per cent of outbound Indians choosing European countries for their vacations. Destinations that are well-connected and offer a diverse mix of experiences, from luxury and culture to adventure and wellness, are particularly favoured. FITUR 2025 will highlight India's evolving travel patterns, showcasing

the growing demand for a variety of European offerings.

Indian representation

FITUR 2024 saw strong participation from India, with notable contributions from the Ministry of Tourism and key state tourism offices, including Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. As the event expands

in 2025, India's representation is set to grow, with regions like Rajasthan, UP, and Puducherry now joining the spotlight. This broadening participation reflects India's increasing importance on the international tourism stage.

The Iberian Peninsula: A draw for Indian tourists

Indian buyers and travel agents are

showing an increased interest in the Iberian Peninsula, with Spain and Portugal emerging as top European destinations. Their rich cultural heritage, history, gastronomy, and

the ease of travel afforded by the Schengen visa.

A global tourism hub

FITUR 2024 set impressive records with participation from 152 countries, including 96 with official representation, 9,000 companies, and over 250,000 attendees. This year's event is expected to continue that momentum, providing a valuable opportunity for Indian tourism professionals to engage with global industry players.

With 80 mn passport holders and an outbound tourism expenditure of \$42 bn in 2024, India is firmly established as one of the promising source markets globally

modern amenities have proven to be a winning combination for Indian travellers. The accessibility of these destinations has been enhanced by increasing air connectivity via hubs like Dubai and Istanbul, as well as



TITLIS

#ThePeakToBe

Let Mount Titlis energize your day with an enthralling fun-filled snow experience and breathtaking memories of a lifetime.
titlis.ch



Economical destinations for 2025

If you have been pushing your travel plans fearing the dilemma of expenses, you are not the only one. About 94 per cent of Indian travellers tend to overthink their holiday plans, making it harder for them to commit to a trip, reveals a report by Skyscanner.

TT Bureau

Would tourism get its due in this Budget?

Another Union Budget is around the corner, and the tourism industry is cautiously optimistic. Despite being a massive employer and GDP contributor, the sector has been stuck on repeat with its demands— industry status, tax relief, better policies, and support for bridging the glaring demand-supply gap in infrastructure and skilled manpower.

The truth is, without industry recognition, attracting investments remains an uphill climb. And while campaigns like Dekho Apna Desh are great, they need real backing—better roads, more regional airports, and incentives for eco-tourism. On the manpower front, we are looking at a 60 per cent skill shortage. And let's not forget GST and TCS. This budget needs to show up for tourism, not just as lip service, but with meaningful change.

Pinning tier II cities on tourism map

The National Tourism Day is round the corner and it's time to stop sidelining the immense potential of tier II cities. These gems have culture, history, and charm in abundance, yet they are often overlooked in favour of big cities. What's holding them back? Connectivity, infrastructure, and promotion. It's not rocket science— better roads, more flights, and some smart marketing can do wonders. Let's not forget the government's role here—policies that cut through red tape and support local tourism development can be game-changers.

Imagine a future where tier II cities draw tourists from across the globe, not as afterthoughts, but as prime destinations. This is not just about tourism, it's about putting these cities on the global map and empowering their communities.

We think it's about time to make it happen.

The 'Wanderlost' report by Skyscanner offers a closer look at how Indian travellers plan for the year ahead, with nearly half (49 per cent) already planning their next getaway. It further highlights the key factors that shape their travel decisions and what often holds them back from booking their next adventure.

January is all about fresh beginnings and the perfect time to map out 2025 adventures, with 89 per cent of Indians using this month to make important decisions for the year ahead. However, for 75 per cent of Indian travellers, the process of planning a trip can feel overwhelming. Key stressors like the fear of making a less-than-perfect choice (96 per cent), cost concerns (95 per cent), and overthinking (94 per cent) hold many back from booking their holidays. Travellers also tend to be extra cautious about their travel plans, revisiting their options multiple times—whether it's flights (41 per cent), hotels (35 per cent), or activities (30 per cent)—to make sure everything is perfect before they hit 'book'.

Mohit Joshi, Travel and Destinations Expert, Skyscanner, shares, "Planning a trip should be exciting, but for many, it can feel like a daunting task. Our Wanderlost report highlights that over 1 in 5 (22 per cent) Indian travellers take up



to a month to finalise their holiday plans. Despite this, nearly half (45 per cent) Indians ended up taking more holidays than they originally planned in 2024.

To further explore the mental strain behind this phenomenon, Skyscanner collaborated with **Dr Faye Begeti**, neurology doctor and neuroscientist, who explains, "Wanderlost", a state of indecision during travel planning, stems from mental fatigue. Planning a holiday can feel overwhelming, especially when each decision - whether it's choosing a destination or booking flights, hotels, and activities - requires significant mental effort."

Brain hacks to overcome 'Wanderlost'
According to Skyscanner, 'Wanderlost' can be tackled with five neuroscience-backed exercises,

developed with Dr Faye Begeti, to help travellers simplify decisions and plan confidently for 2025:

❖ **Combat decision fatigue:**
Decision fatigue can overwhelm your brain, making even simple choices feel exhausting. Narrowing down your options is key.

Travellers tend to be extra cautious about their travel plans, revisiting options multiple times— whether it's flights (41%), hotels (35%), or activities (30%)

❖ **Prioritise key decisions early:**
Tackle the big decisions - like selecting flights or accommodation - when your mental energy is highest. For less important choices, adopt a "good enough" approach. If a choice meets your criteria, select it and move on.

❖ **Balance mental energy with the right holiday:**
Choose a holiday that aligns with your mental state. If you are feeling mentally overloaded, opt for a nature-focused retreat to reduce sensory input and recharge. If you are under-stimulated, consider a city break or an adventure holiday for a burst of novelty and excitement.

❖ **Leverage anticipatory dopamine:**
Bookmark your dream destinations in a saved list and revisit them as you refine your plans, making the planning a less stressful and more exciting experience.

❖ **Break Free from Routine:**
As we get older, time can feel like it's moving faster, often because we get stuck in familiar routines. Overcome the status quo bias that keeps you locked into these patterns. Try stepping out of your comfort zone when planning your holiday and explore unexpected destinations; this can lead to more memorable experiences.

Cheapest destinations for 2025
One in three Indian travellers (31 per cent) are inspired by affordable travel destinations, while almost one in four (23 per cent) are motivated by knowing the cheapest places to visit. In 2024, high costs were a key barrier for Indian travellers, with 32 per cent citing it as the reason for taking fewer holidays.

Skyscanner's Economical Destinations for 2025	
Cheapest Destinations for 2025	Flight prices in 2025
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh	From ₹8,390
Kochi, Kerala	From ₹9,898
Jaisalmer, Rajasthan	From ₹9,898
New Delhi, India	From ₹10,220
Phnom Penh, Cambodia	From ₹12,262
Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir	From ₹12,370
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	From ₹17,425
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	From ₹22,588
Muscat, Oman	From ₹22,588
Davao, Philippines	From ₹23,557

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS

Fear of making a less-than-perfect choice (96%), cost (95%), and overthinking (94%) prevent Indians from booking their travels

Ayodhya, Kochi, Phnom Penh, Kuala Lumpur among the list of cheapest destinations that Indians can visit in 2025



Sanjeet
Editor & Publisher
Editorial Team:
Devika Jeet
Nisha Verma
Sushil Kumar
Harsh Jain
Janice Alyousis
Design Team:
Sudhir Mudgal
Nityanand Misra
Production:
Anil Kharbanda
Ramesh Gupta

Advertising Team (Delhi)
Nikhil Jeet
Anamika Gupta
Jaspree Kaur
Advertising Team (Mumbai)
Sudhita Saran
Harshita Ashar
Samantha Pereira
Advertisement Designers
Nitin Kumar
Aditya Pratap Singh
Anil Khatri Chhetri
Circulation:
Ashok Rana

DDP is a publication of DDP Publications Private Limited. All information in DDP is derived from sources, which we consider reliable and a sincere effort is made to report accurate information. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. The publisher regret that he cannot accept liability for errors and omissions contained in this publication, however caused. Similarly, opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared by DDP. However, we wish to advise our readers that one or more recognised authorities may hold different views than those reported. Material used in this publication is intended for information purpose only. Readers are advised to seek specific advice before acting on information contained in this publication which is provided for general use, and may not be appropriate for the readers' particular circumstances. Contents of this publication are copyright. No part of DDP or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the publication in writing. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. An exemption is hereby granted for the extracts used for the purpose of fair review, provided two copies of the same publication are sent to us for our records. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole, without permission could face legal action. The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning any material solicited or unsolicited nor is he responsible for material lost or damaged.

This publication is not meant to be an endorsement of any specific product or services offered. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw, amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian and International Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by delayed publication, error or failure of an advertisement to appear.

DDP is printed, published and edited by Sanjeet on behalf of DDP Publications Pvt. Ltd., printed at Modest Print Pvt. Ltd., C-52, DDA Sheds Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I, New Delhi-110020 and published at 72, Todarmal Road, New Delhi - 110 001 Ph.: +91-9818767141, +91-9850399920
MUMBAI:
504, Marine Chambers, 43, New Marine Lines, Opp. SNTD College, Mumbai - 400 020, India, Ph.: +91-22-22070129; 22070130
MIDDLE EAST:
Durga Das Publications Middle East (FZE) 21-02, PO Box: 9348, Saif Zone, Sharjah, UAE Ph.: +971-6-5528954, Fax: +971-6-5528956

National Tourism Day Special

Celebrating the spirit of India

National Tourism Day falls on 25 January. **TRAVELTALK** celebrates the day with pride and a focused approach to raise awareness about the benefits of tourism for India and encourage the trade to promote India's natural beauty, cultural diversity, and rich heritage.



Dr Sagnik Chowdhury
Dy DG & Regional Director
(West & Central India), MOT, Gol

“India Tourism has planned several activities centered around the National Tourism Day. We have multiple Yuva Tourism Clubs with more than 30,000 members, who are school and college students and our best ambassadors for promoting India as a tourist destination. We have tie-ups with various organisations and educational institutions where we plan to bring in a lot of students and teachers and hold seminars.”

“In 2024, Madhya Pradesh emerged as a leading tourist destination, welcoming over 13 crore visitors. This surge, driven by a record 7.25 crore pilgrims to Ujjain's Mahakal temple, solidified the state's position as a spiritual tour-



Rajiv Mehra
President
IATO

“The tourism sector is rebounding strongly in 2025, with rising domestic and international bookings. Tier II and III cities, North-East India, Ladakh, and coastal Karnataka are thriving, while international tourists favour India's heri-



Sheo Shekhar Shukla
Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture
and Religious Trusts & Endowments
Department and MD, MPTB

ism hub. MP also achieved many milestones, including Guinness World Records like the largest Hindustani classical music ensemble at 100th Tansen Samaroh.”

“On this National Tourism Day, we celebrate the vibrant spirit of India's tourism industry, a sector that showcases our nation's incredible heritage, culture, and natural beauty. Tourism is a powerful tool for fostering unity, creating employment, and driving sustainable development. As IATO President, I encourage all stakeholders to work together to make India preferred destination.”



Ved Khanna
President
ADTOI

tage, rural stays, and adventure activities. However, rising costs within India challenge its competitiveness against neighbours like Sri Lanka.”



Swaytank Maheshwari
Managing Director
Rainbow Vacations

“I believe, the opening of Postcard in Durrung Tea Estate has brought Assam to the forefront of international traveller. Durrung Tea Garden has been in existence since 1875 and is one of the oldest estates and opening of a boutique premium property has opened gates to high-end tourism in Assam. Combining Kaziranga and Durrung shall make an attractive circuit for inbound travellers.”

“Inbound clients are increasingly seeking authentic, immersive experiences that go beyond traditional tourist paths. They are drawn to local cultures, nature, and destinations offering both adventure and tranquillity. Popular spots



Rajeev Kale
President & Country Head, Holidays,
MICE, Visa, Thomas Cook (India)

“Our Cygnett Resort Mountain Breeze in Jeolikote, a serene hill destination near Nainital, has seen remarkable success with 100 per cent occupancy during peak seasons and 60 per cent off-season. Despite rising travel costs



Dipti Pradhan Thakoor
Director & Event Head
ETAA

include the Konkan region, Heritage Karnataka with ancient temples and architecture, besides Dwarka and Somnath.”

“India's significant geographical advantage with presence of mountains, rivers, valleys, deserts and deep seas creates a great potential for adventure activities. India is an adventurer's paradise offering unlimited adventure experiences that give an adrenaline rush. Some of the adventure activities in India include paragliding, trekking, and ziplining.”



Sarbendra Sarkar
MD & Founder
Cygnett Hotels

and airfares, the demand remains robust, showcasing the growing appeal of unique hill destinations.”

Contd. on page 21 ▶



HOTEL
POLO TOWERS
GROUP

Agartala | Cherrapunjee | Shillong | Kolkata
Tura | Allahabad | Jabalpur | Neermahal

THINK NORTH EAST
POLO TOWERS






+91 99867 02889
www.hotelpolotowers.com

Tourism News

Karnataka launches MSIL travel packages to make travel accessible and affordable: MP Patil

India's air traffic expected to record 11-12% CAGR, driven by faster growth in global segment, says Jefferies

India sees low supply of hotels in FY24, average room rates to touch new highs: ICRA

Inter-ministerial tourism task force announced to develop one tourism site per North East state

MOT plans to document GI-tagged products and develop literature on them to attract tourists

Odisha launches luxury cruise service on Chilika Lake under Swadesh Darshan Scheme with two luxury vessels

Himachal Pradesh CM allocates ₹415 crore for tourism, plans to develop wellness centres across state

'Oman-India tourism to flourish'

His Excellency Issa Alshibani, Oman's Ambassador to India, is a man with diverse interests. Among his multiple objectives, he is working hard on promoting tourism to Oman, especially from India. Strong foundation of trust and mutual respect has enabled the relationship between Oman and India to flourish, he says.

Inder Raj Ahluwalia

What is the core reason behind successful India-Oman relationship?

The strong foundation of trust and mutual respect has enabled the relationship between Oman and India to flourish, culminating in recent milestones, like His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq's historic visit to India. This visit produced an aligned vision document, setting a collaborative path forward, focusing on sustainable development, technology, and energy. Both nations are committed advocates for peace, emphasising dialogue as a way to address regional and international issues. Together, Oman and India demonstrate how ancient ties can evolve into a partnership that meets modern global challenges.

Oman has an ancient history and is considered the birthplace of Islam. Has this shaped the country's modern working?

Oman's Islamic heritage,



His Excellency Issa Alshibani
Oman's Ambassador to India

alongside its deep-rooted maritime history, has fostered a spirit of peace and collaboration that drives its modern diplomacy. Reflecting this legacy, Oman recently agreed with India to construct a traditional wooden stitch ship in India, honouring the shared maritime history of both nations. This ship, which will sail to Oman, symbolises not only our past but also our enduring commitment to

cultural exchange and preserving traditional craftsmanship.

With similar cultures and heritage, do you feel tourism between India and Oman will see great growth?

It certainly will! Oman's breathtaking landscapes and unique wildlife attract visitors from India and beyond. Destinations like Jabal Akhdar, known as the Green Mountain, offer cool, scenic retreats, while the beaches of Ras Al Jinz provide a natural habitat for green turtles—a spectacle that appeals to eco-tourists and nature-lovers alike. These pristine sites, along with Oman's dolphin-watching experiences and untouched coastline, are just a glimpse of what Indian visitors can experience in Oman.

Which destinations or attractions in Oman would you call truly special?

In addition to Jabal Akhdar, Oman's cultural heritage sites, like its ancient frankincense trails, connect visitors to our history with

India, where frankincense has long been valued for its medicinal and spiritual properties. Oman's extensive coastline is home to vibrant marine life, from dolphins to unique coral reefs, providing rare encounters for visitors.

Destinations like Jabal Akhdar, known as Green Mountain, offer cool and scenic retreats, while Ras Al Jinz beaches provide a natural habitat for green turtles

Our untouched beaches, Muscat's Royal Opera House and planned museum collaborations with India will showcase these treasures, further linking our histories and cultural wealth.

What have you liked most about India during your stay?

The warmth and hospitality of the Indian people stand out, reflecting the strong cultural ties between our nations. While I'm new to kabaddi, I have noticed that it has a unique place in both Indian and Omani communities. It's fascinating how kabaddi, a game with ancient Indian roots, has crossed borders and become part of Oman's sports landscape, likely brought over through historic cultural exchanges.

What role do you see the India-Oman friendship playing in helping to create a better world?

India and Oman's partnership sets a precedent for cooperation across sectors, from green energy and trade, to cultural heritage preservation. Through collaborations in museum exhibits and the promotion of traditional crafts, we are not only fostering economic growth but also reinforcing a model of cross-cultural understanding.

STB: Where events make impact

Singapore Tourism Board (STB) recently organised a trade webinar to highlight Singapore's appeal as Southeast Asia's leading destination for organising Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE)

TT Bureau

India is a major source market for MICE tourism in Singapore, particularly the corporate meetings and the incentive travel segments. MICE visitors today can easily travel to Singapore year-round with 17 cities offering almost 300 direct flights by six airlines weekly.



W Singapore - Sentosa Cove

Wide array of MICE venues

Beyond state-of-the-art convention centres, many Singapore hotels located in the city centre also offer world-class MICE facilities catering to varying group sizes and needs of the business visitors. The city's accommodation is also varied, with over 70,000 rooms offered by over 400 hotels, of which many like the Mondrian Singapore and Pan Pacific Orchard are new to market.

Sustainability

During the webinar, STB highlighted that Singapore's MICE industry has set out its own sustainability roadmap. It was specifically

mentioned that the roadmap has guided many suppliers and venues to go green. As such, MICE intermediaries or even corporates require a specific aspect or unique elements of sustainability for a group, or have to comply to certain sustainability guidelines set by their business organisations, the Singapore value proposition for sustainability would be attractive, as there is a list of eco-friendly suppliers.

Assistance schemes

STB highlighted that there are schemes available to influence intermediaries and corporates to select Singapore as the des-

tinuation. These include BEIS, INSPIRE, as well as SMAP – all of which are mentioned in STB's meeting planners guide.

MAJOR MICE ATTRACTIONS

Multiple world class MICE venues

Over **70,000** rooms are on offer by over 400 hotels, of which many like the Mondrian Singapore and Pan Pacific Orchard are new to market

Bridging the skill gap

The Global Association of Events and Hospitality Professionals (GAEHP) was launched recently in Delhi, with an aim to tackle the industry's skill gap by providing education and practical training to tourism professionals.

Janice Alyosius

The tourism and hospitality industry has been struggling with the shortage of well-trained professionals for a long

Speaking at the launch of the association in Delhi, **Rajesh Arya**, President, GAEHP, said, "The main objective of our association is to have a global reach, meaning we aim to cater not just do-

support new tourism graduates from institutions like IITM. We provide them with both theoretical and practical knowledge, helping them gain real-world experience," Arya said.



Members of Global Association of Events and Hospitality Professionals (GAEHP)

time now. To address this growing challenge, industry stakeholders have united to form the Global Association of Events and Hospitality Professionals (GAEHP).

This platform has been designed to meet the evolving needs of the industry by focusing on education, skill development, and fostering collaboration to drive innovation and professional growth.

mestically but internationally as well. While there are many associations in India, this one will be global. We cover all verticals, with a primary focus on events and hospitality."

GAEHP's ambition is to be a catalyst for growth and innovation, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world experience. "We aim to



Europe visits: Indians not in a hurry

With a growing desire for meaningful and immersive experiences, Indian tourists heading to Europe are looking for destinations that offer cultural connections, relaxation, and unique local experiences. The European market is poised to cater to this demand, thanks to simplified visa processes, and a diverse range of travel options.



Janice Alyosius

Europe continues to be one of the most sought-after destinations for Indian travellers, with a notable surge in demand for diverse travel experiences. **Anshum Anand**, Director - Operations, Gateways of Europe, sheds light on the shifting trends and growing enthusiasm for European destinations.

Passion for Europe

According to Anand, the Indian market is among the most passionate when it comes to travelling to Europe. "There has been a very strong demand for mono-country or city programmes," he explains. "The younger generation and families are highly excited to visit cities like Berlin, Amalfi Coast, Lisbon, Swiss Alps, Dublin, Lapland, and the Scandinavian countries. They are no longer looking for quick stopovers. Instead, they want to immerse themselves in the local culture and spend extended periods in one location, exploring



Anshum Anand
Director - Operations
Gateways of Europe

areas where they can truly connect with the surroundings," he adds.

Countries like the Balkans and Scandinavia are gaining popularity, with travellers eager to explore beyond the well-trodden paths. These regions offer a mix of rich history, vibrant cultures, and stunning landscapes, making them a hotspot for those looking to delve deeper into European life.

Simplified visa process

One of the most significant factors contributing to the increased interest in European travel is the ease of obtaining visas. "All the European countries have become liberal these days in granting visas to Indian travellers," Anand shares. "Germany, for instance, has launched a digital platform for visa applications, and many other countries are now offering long-duration visas to seasoned travellers," he adds.

However, Anand highlights an important aspect of visa planning. "The key to a smooth experience is planning your holidays well in advance to avoid the rush for visa appointments, especially during peak seasons," he cautions.

Increased connectivity

Gone are the days when travellers needed to depend solely on major airports in India for flights to Europe. "There are now excellent flight connections from tier I

and tier II cities in India to Europe, thanks to strong partnerships with domestic airlines. This has made it much more convenient for travellers from all parts of the country to access European destinations," Anand underlines.

Younger generation and families are excited to visit cities like Berlin, Amalfi Coast, Lisbon, Swiss Alps, Dublin, Lapland, and the Scandinavian countries

Travel preferences

The evolving Indian economy is playing a pivotal role in shaping the travel preferences of both leisure and MICE travellers. "Europe now attracts Indian travellers for

a variety of experiences, including wellness and relaxation, gastronomy, nightlife, and shopping," Anand shares. This shift highlights the growing trend of combining leisure with cultural exploration and unique experiences.

For leisure travellers, popular destinations like London, Paris, and Rome continue to draw attention for shopping and vibrant nightlife. However, many are extending their stays to serene locations like Scandinavia, Croatia, Germany, Austria, Spain, and Portugal for a more tranquil and rejuvenating experience.

Average duration of stay

The length of stay varies depending on the type of traveller. "Leisure group travellers typically spend around 13 days in Europe," Anand shares. "MICE travellers, on the other hand, tend to stay for about 7 days, while family travellers are spending 15 days or more, making the most of their

time exploring both the cultural hubs and relaxing retreats of Europe," he adds.

From simplified visa processes to better flight connectivity and evolving travel preferences, the European market is well-positioned to welcome the influx of Indian visitors. Whether it's for relaxation, cultural immersion, or simply indulging in shopping and nightlife, Europe continues to captivate the Indian traveller, shaping the future of international tourism.



'Relook at TCS & GST components'

Contd. from page 5



Sunil Kumar
President
TAAI

"The Budget must prioritise investments in tourism infrastructure, including airports, railways, and hospitality facilities in key tourist areas. Subsidies and promotional campaigns can boost domestic tourism, support-



Gajesh Girdhar
National Coordinator
NIMA

"The travel and tourism sector hopes the Union Budget will address its pressing challenges and pave the way for sustained growth. Rationalising GST rates for travel agents and enabling input tax credits are essential steps to reduce operational



Dharmendra Singh
Director, Plaisir Hospitality Services & Chairman, Maharashtra Chapter, ADTO

"Government's focus is purely on inbound tourism. Our expectation from this Budget and our plea to the government is to relook at the TCS and the GST components and relax the same for the outbound travellers. This

"The travel and tourism sector faces mounting challenges, with unfulfilled expectations compounded by new obstacles from various verticals, threatening industry sustainability. A key demand is granting the sector industry status, recognising it as a critical revenue generator and a consistent provider of employment. Government should prioritise this high-yield sector, ensuring its significance is reflected in national planning."



Sanjeev Mehra
President
Skål International

ing state tourism boards. Simplified tax structures for travel agencies and hospitality businesses, alongside incentives, will promote growth."

"The government should mandate airlines to provide a minimum 5 per cent commission on publicly listed fares, ensuring fair practices for travel agents. Abolishing TCS and simplifying remittance procedures are critical to reducing operational burdens for industry stakeholders. Additionally, strict vigilance on OTAs is necessary to prevent malpractices."



Hussain Patel
Director
TripJack

costs and improve market competitiveness. Simplifying compliance processes can further alleviate the administrative burden on businesses."

"The Union Budget must extend support to inbound operators with incentives and extensive international marketing to ensure foreign tourists' inflow into India. It must also encourage registered tour operators and guides by giving them incentives for enhancing guest experience and bringing in ethical trade practices. We hope the Budget continues to subsidise land, with interest free loan and subsidy on hotel projects."



Sameer Karnani
MD, Arunodaya Travels & MC Member, TAAI

will ease the burden on us and help boost the overall tourism business. Also, there is a shortage of hotel rooms in India."

Contd. on page 22

'India: A billion £ market by 2026'

India remains a vital market for the UK in terms of visitor numbers. Vishal Bhatia, Country Manager – India, VisitBritain, shares emerging trends and key initiatives the tourism board is taking to further boost the inbound numbers from India. Indian visitors are spending more nights in regions outside London, he observes.

Nisha Verma

VisitBritain, the tourism board of the United Kingdom, is bullish on the India market. **Vishal Bhatia**, Country Manager – India, VisitBritain highlighted key initiatives the tourism board is taking to promote the destination in India. "India is an important market for us. We closed 2024 with approximately 711,000 visitors from India, a clear growth trajectory from the previous year. By 2026, India will be a billion-pound market," Bhatia said, while speaking at the Destination Britain Middle East and Asia (DBMEA) event in Bengaluru recently.



Vishal Bhatia
Country Manager – India
VisitBritain

verse offerings, encouraging longer stays and deeper engagement with regional destinations.

Trends & forecasts

He noted that there has been a shift in travel patterns across India. "Indian visitors are spending more nights in regions outside London, immersing themselves in local cultures and experiences," he observed. This trend aligns with VisitBritain's efforts to showcase the UK's di-

Reimagining itineraries

The traditional itinerary of starting in London before exploring the regions is evolving. "We are seeing visitors heading straight to regional hubs like Manchester or Glasgow, often concluding their trip in London," Bhatia

explained, adding that, "London remains a key draw, especially for its iconic attractions and shopping districts like Oxford Street and Bicester Village, but visitors are now equally enchanted by experiences across the UK's nations and regions."

We are confident the UK will continue to attract more Indians, strengthening cultural & economic ties between the two nations

Connectivity boost

During the last year, there has been a significant improvement in connectivity between India and the UK, with flight routes surpassing



pre-COVID levels. "Connectivity has grown significantly in the last 12 months, which is a great positive sign for us," highlighted Bhatia.

He also emphasised on strengthened ties with travel agents and tour operators. "Engaging with the travel trade is extremely important to us. Events like DBMEA help facilitate product development and contracting, enabling Indian travel professionals to craft bespoke itineraries that resonate

with evolving traveller preferences," claimed Bhatia.

New markets & demography

VisitBritain's strategy for India extends beyond metropolitan cities. "We are targeting premium travellers who seek unique and experiential journeys," he said. Identifying the potential of tier II & III cities, VisitBritain is engaging with emerging markets to drive the next wave of growth. "It is about creating awareness of new products and

attractions so that even repeat visitors find fresh and exciting reasons to return," explained Bhatia.

Way forward

With a billion-pound market in sight and a clear focus on regional exploration and trade partnerships, VisitBritain's roadmap for India is both ambitious and achievable. "As connectivity and awareness grow, we are confident that the UK will continue to attract more Indian travellers, strengthening cultural and economic ties between the two nations," he concluded.

IMPORTANT INDICATORS

711,000

Visitors from India the UK received in 2024

By 2026

India will be a billion-pound market for the UK

Fly to Sapporo city through ANA

All Nippon Airways (ANA), positioning itself as a player in strengthening Indo-Japanese tourism ties, promotes Sapporo city as an unexplored travel destination for Indian travellers.

Surbhi Sharma

All Nippon Airways (ANA), in partnership with Sapporo, a city in Japanese island of Hokkaido, hosted a workshop at Le Meridien in New Delhi recently for the Indian travel trade. Designed to strengthen Indo-Japanese tourism ties, the event highlighted Sapporo as an unexplored premier travel destination for Indian travellers. During the event, **Ryo Bunno**, Executive Director, Japan National Tourism Organisation (JNTO), Delhi, shared Japan's expectations of crossing 200,000 Indian visitors in 2024.



Tsuneya Katagiri
Country Manager - India
All Nippon Airways (ANA)

sively in Sapporo. Scheduled for release in 2025, this collaboration is expected to boost Indian interest in visiting Hokkaido," Katagiri said. ANA operates daily flights between Delhi and Tokyo, and three flights weekly from Mumbai to Tokyo Narita. Chennai route is temporarily suspended, ANA plans to resume it soon.

Tsuneya Katagiri, Country Manager - India, ANA spoke about Sapporo city, ANA's expanding network in India and Japan's new tourism strategy. "In an exciting collaboration, we have partnered with Aamir Khan Productions for a Bollywood movie shot exten-

Asego celebrates 25 years

Since its inception, Asego has been driven by the mission of not only delivering unparalleled travel assistance and insurance solutions to travellers but also ensuring the mutual growth of agent partners in ancillary business.

TT Bureau

Team Asego recently celebrated 25 momentous years in the Indian travel trade serving the industry as the preferred travel assistance and insurance provider. Sharing a special message on the occasion, **Dev Karvat**, Founder & CEO, Asego, said, "I extend my deepest gratitude to our esteemed clients, partners and every member of the Asego family. Your support, trust, and belief in our vision have been instrumental in shaping Asego into what it is today. This milestone and success are as much as yours as it is ours."



Dev Karvat
Founder & CEO
Asego

wards the Indian travel trade and the unwavering confidence the Indian travel trade has shown towards Team Asego," Karvat said.

Know more about Asego

The company is redefining travel protection in India with innovation and care. Asego, one of India's leading dedicated providers for travel assistance and insurance, has distinguished

itself by creating a robust global network of hospitals and service partners, allowing the company to offer seamless, end-to-end

Asego's suite of travel assistance and insurance solutions acts as a safety net against the unexpected and offer comprehensive protection

against the unexpected, offering comprehensive protection that empowers travellers to explore with confidence.

What truly sets Asego apart is its singular focus on travel protection. This focused vision has allowed the company to create products that deeply resonate with the unique needs of travellers. With a portfolio of over 200 customised offerings—spanning leisure, business, and student travel—Asego has built a legacy of trust, innovation, and customer-centric service.

assistance to travellers worldwide. From emergency medical services, including doctor-on-call access, to covering flight delays and cancellations, Asego ensures that travellers are fully supported, no matter where they are. The company's suite of travel assistance and insurance solutions acts as a safety net





Gateways of Europe

#GoEurope


Opening Doors to Europe

- Chauffeured Vans and Coaches - LDC and Local
- Hotel contracts with international chains and local properties
- Meal reservations with multicuisine restaurants
- Multilinguistic Guide services
- Sightseeing tickets and unique customised destination experiences
- Events, Catering and Logistics for MICE
- Professional multilinguistic Tour Managers
- Easily accessible MOS at all places of service

OUR OFFICES

London | Dublin | Paris | Copenhagen | Belgrade | Delhi

 +44 333 014 7557

 query@gatewaysofeurope.co.uk

SALES TEAM INDIA

West / Central / North India :

Meeloni Shah +91 97734 62632 | Rina Bhatt +91 98672 43855

South India :

Nupoor Desai +91 97691 54405 | Subeesh Ukkath +91 90371 36802 | Priya Susan +91 79073 33935

East India :

Neha Chatterjee +91 89816 76777

www.gatewaysofeurope.co.uk

Emirates Travel Agents Crick

The sixth edition of Emirates Travel Agents Cricket Tournament 2024, organised in Mumbai from 16 November to 8 Dec saw huge engagement from not just the players but also their friends and family members who came to cheer for them of the games forming a total of 28 different team. Riya Warriors emerged as the champions of the tournament while Trip the games will be even more engaging in the future. 'We have a lot of ideas for next year and we want to make it bigger



Cricket Tournament 2024 wins big

September 2024, was a resounding triumph with huge participation from the travel industry frontliners. The five-day tourney, taking the total views on YouTube to a record-breaking 21,000 views. This year, a whopping 750+ players were part of the event. The Jack Warriors was the runner-up team. Mr Mohammad Sarhan, Vice President (India & Nepal), Emirates, assured that 'there will be more fun for everyone,' he said. He left with a little teaser: The airline might do the finals in Dubai in future!



Biz in India through tier II, III cities

India's travel industry is on the brink of a transformative era and Travelport is well-equipped to lead the transformation with its international presence and commitment to innovation. With focus on content curation, agility, and customer-centric solutions, the retail platform ensures it remains a trusted partner for the travel ecosystem in India and beyond.

 Surbhi Sharma

India's travel industry is witnessing unprecedented growth, marked by a surge in infrastructure development, increasing air travel adoption, and evolving consumer trends. Travelport, a global leader in travel retail technology, is at the forefront of this transformation. **John Elieson**, COO, Travelport and **Alexis Guest**, Vice President - Global Operator, Travelport, share insights with **TRAVELTALK** on the dynamic Indian market and their company's role in shaping the future.



John Elieson
COO
Travelport



Alexis Guest
Vice President - Global Operator
Travelport

Dynamic Indian market

Indian market has always been in focus for Travelport, but its significance has grown exponentially in recent years. Elieson said, "India is one of the two largest markets for Travelport, and we operate in over 180 countries worldwide." He emphasised India's remarkable growth, driven by new airports, massive aircraft orders, and a burgeoning

middle class. "This demographic shift is introducing millions of first-time flyers to the skies, fuelling the rapid expansion of domestic and international travel," he reasoned.

Leveraging content curation

Travelport's strategy focuses on agility, consistency, and stability to keep pace with the evolving landscape. One of key priorities

of the retail platform is to enhance the travel experience through better content curation. "We have been looking forward to this opportunity to get hundreds of our customers together in one place to discuss how we are operationalising and curating sources of content from various places," he said, adding that the approach ensures that travel agencies and sellers have access



to diverse and high-quality content to serve their customers effectively.

Guest, the Vice President - Global Operators, highlighted the importance of content normalisation, particularly with the integration of New Distribution Capability (NDC). "Travelport's content curation layer is intended to normalise all forms of content, including NDC, and help suppliers and agents sell content to the consumer," Guest said. "By simplifying access to different content sources, Travelport empowers travel agencies to deliver seamless and personalised experiences to its customers," she added.

Emerging trends in Indian travel

India's tier-II and III cities are becoming major players in the travel industry, thanks to new airport developments. "We are witnessing an explosion of travel within India. This

growth presents enormous opportunities for airlines, travel agencies, and the broader travel ecosystem," she opined. Moreover, direct-to-

This demographic shift is introducing millions of first-time flyers to the skies, fuelling the rapid expansion of domestic and international travel

consumer trends are reshaping how travellers interact with the industry. Travelport's products and services are designed to address these trends, Guest said.

Path ahead

Elieson said, "The growth for ITQ and Travelport has been fabulous, as we will touch over 32 million mark this year and continue to invest in the Indian market so that we can continue to lead and be first." He added, "We operate in 180 countries or markets around the world. Among them, India stands out as our top priority. The Indian market is the most strategic and important to our purposes and very soon we will make a new announcement for this marketplace."



Roam Arabia with One Above Global

One Above Global, a DMC with presence in 24 countries, recently introduced its in-house brand, Roam Arabia, as part of its commitment to transforming travel experiences across the Arabian Peninsula. Leading the launch was Rahim Aslam, Consultant and Founder, One Above Global, along with Mahmood AH Qureshi, Spokesperson, Roam Arabia.



Sustainability: Necessity, not luxury

Do you think curating a trip comprising sustainable products is a costly indulgence reserved for a select few? No, says Pavnesh Kumar, Director – Sustainability & Research, Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). In an interview with **TRAVELTALK**, Kumar explains why sustainable tourism is not a luxury or niche segment but a necessity.



Amita Pandey

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) has unwavering commitment to sustainability. Emphasising the association's commitment towards sustainability, **Pavnesh Kumar**, Director – Sustainability & Research, PATA, said, "Our focus goes beyond workshops and sessions. It is about sharing knowledge, best practices, case studies, and fostering dialogues on tourism's challenges and opportunities, all while building capacity."



Pavnesh Kumar
Director – Sustainability & Research,
Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)

Highlighting the association's key initiatives, Kumar revealed, "Three years ago, we launched the Tourism Destination Resilience (TDR) programme, recognising resilience as the bedrock of sustainability. Initially, we trained policymakers and decision-makers. By 2023, we expanded TDR to include SMEs, which form about 80 per cent of the tourism industry."

He further added, "Our Sustainability Resource Centre, an online repository with over 110 courses, research articles, attracts visitors from more than 150 countries. Through TDR alone, we have issued over 8,000 certificates, trained more than 340 industry professionals in person, and reached over 30,000 participants via online workshops."

Is sustainability a luxury?

As sustainability takes centre stage in tourism discussions, a common misconception persists among travellers and travel agents that eco-friendly options are a costly indulgence reserved for a select few. Dispelling the myth Kumar said, "Sustainability is not a luxury. It is a necessity for the planet, industry, and destinations. In fact, in a long run, it will become more and more accessible. We just need to understand who all are players in the tourism value chain and how we can empower them."

Sustainable tourism's role

Emphasising on the economic power of sustainable tourism, Kumar said, "The tourism sector contributed over US\$10 trillion last year, with sustainability accounting for more than US\$3 trillion—a significant jump from US\$2.5 trillion in 2022. This figure is projected to soar to US\$7 trillion by 2031. Currently driving nearly 30



per cent of the sector's value, sustainability is poised to play an even larger role. Apparently, investing in sustainable tourism is not just a choice; it is a strategic imperative for every destination. We also need to understand that tourism exists because destinations exist."

Market size

Delving into the market dynamics of sustainable tourism, Kumar highlighted some fascinating insights. "According to SkyQuest, Germany currently leads as the largest market, while China and India are the fastest growing. A 2023 report by Booking.com focusing on the APAC region reveals a strong willingness among travellers from Japan (79 per cent), Hong Kong (76 per cent), and Taiwan (75 per cent) to spend equally

or more on sustainable options. However, the frontrunners are India (86 per cent), Vietnam (80 per cent), and China (75 per cent)," he said.

Profit to business

Kumar said reducing operational costs not only preserves valu-

pricing across offerings, including sustainable products. As a result, sustainable tourism has the potential to shed its niche status and become a choice for travellers.

Addressing overtourism

Stressing that the concept of overtourism is a misnomer, Kumar held that what truly exists is either mass tourism or poorly managed tourism. He emphasised that addressing physical and social capacities is key to sustainable tourism management.

Tourism sector contributed over US\$10 tn last year, with sustainability accounting for more than US\$3 tn—a significant jump from US\$2.5 tn in 2022

able resources but also enhances industry savings. This, in turn, paves the way for more affordable



Europamundo launches new routes

Europamundo Vacaciones, a JTB Group company, has launched new routes and regional tours with a focus on English-speaking tours. This is the largest documented product with guaranteed departures, says Alejandro Del La OSA, its CEO, who speaks exclusively to **TRAVELTALK** about their new offerings and the mobile app for travel agents.



Hazel Jain

Europamundo Vacaciones has launched new routes and regional tours available till March 2026. The new destinations included this year are East Germany, in combination with its traditional Germany tour, new tours in Poland, south of Italy, across Spain, including south, eastern and north of Spain, and south of England, announced **Alejandro Del La OSA**, CEO, Europamundo Vacaciones, who was in India recently to meet their major distributors.



Alejandro Del La OSA
CEO
Europamundo Vacaciones

"This is the largest brochured product with guaranteed departures. The Europamundo brand has been growing over the years and we now wanted to infuse new ideas in the market. So, instead of continuing to sell traditional, multi-country tours, we have been pushing regional tours for the last five years. These approximately one-week tours include only a single country and are full of experiences. We invest a lot of

time perfectly designing these local tours with more local experiences, with more local monuments, with a high level of satisfaction of our clients," he said.

Europamundo Vacaciones organised its 2024 Annual Convention in Marrakech in November, which brought together nearly 300 representatives from 52 countries, including India. OSA said, "We appreciate that our Indian partners

also made it to the convention, which is held on 1 November every year and this year it coincided with Diwali, so they celebrated it with us in Marrakesh."

Mobile app for agents

Europamundo also encourages travel partners to use its mobile app that has a lot of tools and updated information that they can use. For example, it has a tool that the tour leaders use to communicate with the passengers. It also has an updated list of the hotels where they are staying and the restaurants that they are going to visit. "The app is a fantastic tool to travel with Europamundo with the best and the latest information. We also have a focus on English-speaking tours now and the app has three languages - Spanish, Portuguese and English. This way we also enhance our customer experience. In fact, we have incorporated many Indian tour leaders this season. For us, the Indian market is very important, and the way the

Indian tour guides can handle the passenger is very different; they know exactly what the Indian passengers need," he explained.

New destinations included by Europamundo are East Germany, new tours in Poland, south of Italy, across Spain, and south of England

India tops English-speaking markets for Europamundo

OSA said that Europamundo is making huge marketing investments in India. "India is number one market in terms of English-speaking market among all our global markets. This year was fantastic for us



because after the big investment by the commercial team in India, the country has been the number one market in the season 2023-2024 for us, and its growing. In 2024, the Indian market grew 30 per cent and the trade has helped achieve this growth. The product line is also growing, and we see an increase in passengers opting for a new kind of tour, not the traditional tour, and an inclination for regional tours

and visiting new destinations. For example, the numbers we are starting to get for Japan, or the United States, is fantastic. Europamundo is a completely B2B company. We never sell directly to the passenger. The travel agencies know this and respect Europamundo the same way we respect them. Slowly, step by step, we win the confidence of more and more travel agencies in India," he concluded.

Factsheet

- In 2024, the Indian market grew 30% for Europamundo Vacaciones
- India is the number one market for its English-speaking tours

Action

- Write to indiasalesupport@europamundo.com to register for a log and online training.
- Download its mobile app Europamundo

What next for travel agents?

While we begin our journey in 2025, it's time to reflect on the trends and insights that shaped the travel agent industry last year and look toward the future. Robin Lawther, Vice President, Expedia TAAP, says their Travel Agent Affiliate Program (TAAP) saw dynamic shifts in agent needs and traveller behaviours. He shares insights with **TRAVTALK**.

As the most used booking platform by travel agents in major markets, such as the USA, Australia, and Germany, Expedia TAAP's activity serves as a good barometer for the industry as a whole. If one thing is clear, it's that travel is indeed back. We have mined our data and surveyed

agents to reveal the top insights of the year. Let's delve into the insights and consider how travel agents can capitalise on the evolving landscape in 2025.

Trips on the rise

Let's start by looking at the size of parties booking trips and where they travel. In 2024, solo travel continued its rise in popularity, making up 30 per cent of all Expedia TAAP bookings, while couples' travel dominated with 53 per cent. This shift in travel patterns highlights the need for travel agents to curate experiences and excursions for these smaller groups in 2025.

In terms of where travellers are going, New York, specifically Manhattan, is a top destination. Meanwhile, American cities such as Miami, Orlando, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas are still drawing in large numbers of bookings. Europe is the premier destination for international travel, accounting



This shift in travel patterns highlights the need for travel agents to curate experiences and excursions for these smaller groups in 2025

for 11 of the top 25 most booked destinations. Paris and Rome remain popular choices for travellers. However, the standout star of 2024 was Asia, where we saw an influx of travellers booking trips to Tokyo, Singapore, Kyoto, Osaka, Hong Kong, and Bangkok. We expect this trajectory to continue in 2025, especially in Tokyo.

For 2025, agents can benefit from developing targeted strategies to reach solo and couple travellers.

Unpacking trends in travel experiences and activities

To help travel agents stay ahead of the curve, Expedia Group has compiled a comprehensive report, Unpack '25 – The Trends in Travel. Some of the key trends:

- ❖ Gen Z is in their All-Inclusive Era. This type of travel is making a comeback among younger audiences, with a third of Gen Z stating that their perception of all-inclusive resorts has changed for the better. Better still, more than four in 10 of this group say an all-inclusive resort is their preferred hotel type, while searches on Hotels.com using the 'all-inclusive' filter jumped 60 per cent year-over-year.

- ❖ JOMO Travel is on the rise. The opposite of FOMO, the joy of missing out involves people getting away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life by going on vacations such as relaxing beach and mountain trips. Indeed, 62 per cent say

it reduces stress and anxiety, while nearly half say it helps them to better connect with their loved ones.

- ❖ Off-the-beaten-path destinations gaining popularity. Expedia Group's list of Detour Destinations all experienced an increase in searches over the past year, with 63 per cent of consumers saying they are likely to visit a more obscure destination on next trip.



Robin Lawther
Vice President, Expedia TAAP
(Views expressed are the author's own. The publication may or may not subscribe to them.)

NEW YEAR, NEW SAVINGS

Expedia Travel Agent Affiliate Program (TAAP) announces its 2025 New Year Sale, empowering travel advisors to unlock significant savings for their clients. This limited-time offer provides at least 25 per cent off thousands of hotels across popular global destinations. Travel advisors can book until 26 January 2025, with travel dates through 14 September 2025.

Creating holiday itineraries in minutes!

Imagine a travel platform that seamlessly merges the rates and services of top-tier travel companies to help create your travel itinerary. SpeedbirdTravel comes up with one such product, first of its kind in India, which helps travel agents design holiday itineraries in minutes, considerably reducing the time required for tour planning.

TT Bureau

SpeedbirdTravel.com is a travel platform that seamlessly merges the rates and services of more than 60 top-tier travel giants like Booking.com, Expedia, Viator, Rail Europe, FlixBus, Amtrak, Uber, Bolt, Yandex, TBO, and GRN. The platform provides one-stop solution for all kinds of travel needs. With SpeedbirdTravels.com, you will have access to the most competitive prices and the most extensive array of travel options, all consolidated into a single, streamlined platform. It's as if the entire world of travel is at your fingertips, making SpeedbirdTravels.com head and shoulders above conventional booking websites.

Unparalleled customisation

Unlike traditional travel platforms, SpeedbirdTravels.com offers unmatched level of customization. Whether you are adjusting flight times, selecting hotel categories, or choosing between train and bus op-



Xavier Peres
Director
Speedbird Travels

tions, SpeedbirdTravels.com has it all. This platform allows you to handpick activities and sightseeing spots, ensuring every element of your trip is finely tuned to your preferences.

Cutting-edge technology

SpeedbirdTravels.com stands out with its revolutionary German travel technology. This state-of-the-art platform not only simplifies the

booking process but also enhances the overall user experience with an intuitive interface and advanced features. Unlike other sites that may require multiple visits and compli-

Users can compare cruise options on pricing, routes, cabins, and the best ships from partners like MSC Cruises, Costa Cruises, and Royal Caribbean

cated navigation, SpeedbirdTravels.com makes planning your next trip a breeze rather than a burden.

Real-time rate handling

The platform excels in managing dynamic travel rates. Changes in dates can be re-priced within min-



utes, offering users the most current information and the best deals available. This is a significant advantage over other travel platforms, which often falter with real-time updates and price adjustments. With SpeedbirdTravels.com, you can be confident that you are always getting the best rates.

Comprehensive planning

One of the standout features of SpeedbirdTravels.com is its ability to create detailed, day-by-day itineraries. This robust planning tool allows you to map out your entire trip with precision and ease. Such a comprehensive feature is rarely found on other travel websites, making SpeedbirdTravels.com the top choice for savvy travellers who demand the best.

User-friendly interface

Beyond its impressive functionality, the platform boasts a user-friendly

interface that makes booking a pleasure. Whether planning a solo adventure, a romantic getaway, or a family vacation, this platform has everything you need to create the perfect trip. The ease of use and broad range of options far exceed those of traditional travel websites.

Real-time rail & cruise bookings

The online platform also offers the ability to book worldwide cruises in real-time. Users can compare cruise options on pricing, routes, cabins, and the best ships from partners like MSC Cruises, Costa Cruises, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises, Holland America, and over 31 other cruise lines. Even exotic cruises to Antarctica and Alaska are available, all in real-time. Plus, rail options from Amtrak and European trains like Italo are included.

Global holiday packages

Realtime holiday packages are available across the globe, covering destinations like South America, the USA, Argentina, Brazil, Europe,

Australia, Greece, Turkey, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Scandinavia, the Northern Lights, the Baltics, the Balkans, and more. The platform makes arranging these vacations a breeze with just a few clicks.

Redefining travel planning

The platform sets new standards in travel planning. With an extensive range of services, unmatched customisation options, cutting-edge technology, dynamic rate handling, and real-time cruise bookings, it is the go-to travel website to turn your travel dreams into reality.



Technology redefines B2B business

As the travel industry rebounds with vigour, RezLive.com is all set to take advantage of this transformation. From diversifying its product portfolio to introducing seamless tech-driven solutions, the company is redefining the B2B travel experience and reinforcing its commitment to partners and travellers alike.



Surbhi Sharma

In an era where travel preferences are evolving rapidly, RezLive.com is setting the benchmark for innovation and customer-centric solutions. With groundbreaking additions like cruise bookings in India and a focus on cutting-edge technology, RezLive is empowering travel partners to cater to an increasingly discerning audience.

Jaal Shah, Managing Director, Travel Designer Group, said that RezLive.com has made waves in the travel industry by launching cruise bookings in India, a move met with an enthusiastic response from its travel partners. "The milestone underscores the company's dedication to diversifying its offerings, catering to the growing demand for luxury and experiential travel. By focusing on direct sourcing, RezLive.com has also strengthened its relationships with hoteliers, enabling competitive



Jaal Shah
Managing Director
Travel Designer Group

pricing and exclusive offers for its partners. These efforts aim to empower travel agents with top-notch resources for the upcoming travel season, ensuring an unmatched experience for their customers," he said.

Top travel picks for 2025

Indian travellers are flocking to both international and domestic destina-

tions in 2025, driven by a mix of affordability, accessibility, and unique experiences. Popular international hotspots include Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Singapore, Maldives, Thailand, and Saudi Arabia, while Goa and Himachal Pradesh remain top choices within India. These destinations reflect the evolving preferences of Indian travellers, balancing luxury with budget-friendly options.

Keeping pace with trends

Citing that RezLive.com stayed ahead of the travel industry trends by expanding its product portfolio and enhancing flexibility for partners, Shah said, "The launch of cruise bookings is just the beginning. By focusing on maximum refundable inventory and introducing bonus incentives on RezVault top-ups—including options like Amex Cards—RezLive.com has created a robust ecosystem for travel agents. Additionally, an expanded voucher portfolio through the RezRewards portal allows

agents to redeem points against newly added vouchers, further enhancing their experience."

By focusing on direct sourcing, RezLive.com has also strengthened its relationships with hoteliers, enabling competitive pricing and exclusive offers

Surge in bookings & payment

Talking about the number of bookings, Shah said, "We have experienced a 30% year-on-year increase in bookings, showcasing the growing trust and reliance of our travel partners. Online bookings account for 70% of transactions through the platform, with the remaining

30% handled via the API solution, Rez.Tez. The shift towards digital payments is evident, with 70-75% of partners preferring digital methods and 20-25% utilising credit facilities. These trends highlight the travel industry's embrace of seamless, tech-driven solutions."

Tech advancements

RezLive.com has launched a "fully responsive" version of the platform to improve the user experience, offering an intuitive and user-friendly interface. The upgrade has solidified its position as a leading B2B system. The soon-to-be-launched RezLive.com mobile app promises to elevate the user experience further, providing agents with quick access to booking information and enabling faster checkouts.

Summer travel support

To assist partners during the bustling summer travel season, RezLive.com has introduced exclusive summer promotions, early

bird discounts, and flexible booking options. Enhanced training sessions equip travel agents with the knowledge and tools to maximise their business opportunities. These initiatives ensure that partners are well-prepared to meet the heightened travel demands of the season, Shah explained.

IMPORTANT INDICATORS

30%

Year-on-year increase in travel bookings

70%

Of transactions for online bookings through the platform, with the remaining 30% handled via the API solution, Rez.Tez

70-75%

Partners preferring digital methods of payment

Thai VietJet Air sets Mumbai base

Thai VietJet Air, part of the VietJet Group, has chosen Mumbai as its first destination to set its footprint into India. But this is only the beginning, assures Woranate Laprabang, CEO, Thai VietJet Air, with ambitious plans for this interesting market and a very long wish list of cities it wants to touchdown upon.



Hazel Jain

Expanding its presence in India, Thai VietJet Air recently started its inaugural daily Mumbai-Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi) service from 23 December 2024. **Woranate Laprabang**, CEO, Thai VietJet Air, part of Vietjet Group, was in Mumbai to announce their plans and underline long-term strategy. He said, "India is a very important market for us. We see more and more Indian travellers coming to Thailand after our visa-free policy. It took us quite a while before we got the permission, but here we are. We chose Mumbai as our first destination to set the footprint of VietJet Thailand into India because this is a very interesting market. We have very big ambitions for this market, specially because Indian travellers are already familiar with VietJet."

He shared that the airline is expecting to add about 10 more



Woranate Laprabang
CEO
Thai VietJet Air

destinations in the next three years and around 100 weekly frequencies. "We have other cities in consideration but it's a difficult question because every city is interesting. So, to decide the next destination to fly to is a tough decision. I can tell you our wish list – all the tier I cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata. Of course, that is in the first part of the wish list.

But we also want to look at tier II destinations like Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Odisha. We hope we can cover most of them within the next three to four years," Laprabang added.

With its innovative technology, A321neo ACF reduces fuel consumption and emissions by up to 20% while reducing noise levels by 50%

To fuel this expansion, the airline will add to its fleet. "We have around 18 aircraft at the moment, but with a big lot of aircraft confirmation, we expect to grow our fleet from 18 aircraft today to 50 aircraft within the next three to



(L-R) Pinyot Pibulsonggram, Head of Commercial at Thai VietJet Air with Pratul Khosla, Executive Vice President at The Bird Group

four years. This will help us grow our route between Thailand and India," he explained.

Thai VietJet Air offers connections beyond Bangkok to Phuket, Krabi, Chiang Mai, and Chiang Rai in the southern and northern part of Thailand. It also offers seamless connections to many destinations

in ASEAN, including Phnom Penh, Da Nang, and Phu Quoc, and some destinations in North Asia like Taipei. "I would like to add that the connection between Thailand and India is not only carrying Indians to Thailand. We are looking to tap traffic the other way around, bringing Thai people to enjoy the experience of the great country of India," he added.

Vietjet welcomed its 111th aircraft, an advanced Airbus A321neo ACF, to its modern fleet at Tan Son Nhat International Airport. With its innovative technology, the A321neo ACF reduces fuel consumption and emissions by up to 20 per cent while reducing noise levels by 50 per cent.

ADDING TO FLEET STRENGTH

50

Aircraft Thai VietJet Air will add within next 3-4 years to its existing fleet of 18 aircraft

It offers connections beyond Bangkok to Phuket, Krabi, Chiang Mai, and Chiang Rai in the southern and northern part of Thailand

It also offers connections to many ASEAN destinations

South Africa eyes 100k Indians

India has emerged as the seventh-largest overseas international market for South Africa, reflecting its growing significance in bilateral travel ties. Nombulelo Guliwe, CEO, South African Tourism, was in India recently as part of a bigger delegation to further the connections that the two countries have forged.

Hazel Jain

Emphasising the critical role of tourism in connecting India and South Africa, **Nombulelo Guliwe**, CEO, South African Tourism, said, "Tourism acts as a gateway to building deeper connections between India and South Africa. By showcasing our country's unmatched natural beauty, vibrant culture, and warm hospitality, we hope to inspire Indian travellers to explore the diverse experiences South Africa has to offer, like leisure experiences but also adventure, wildlife exploration, and luxury tourism. Through innovations in visa facilitation and partnerships with Indian tour operators, we aim to make South Africa more accessible and attractive to this growing market. Year 2023 stood out as a significant milestone, highlighted by an impressive 43 per cent increase in travellers from India compared to the previous year." She added, "Building on this success,



Nombulelo Guliwe
CEO
South African Tourism

our early 2024 roadshow facilitated over 12,000 meetings, generating more than 160,000 on-the-spot leads for South African Tourism. With this momentum, we are ambitiously targeting 100,000 Indian tourists by the end of FY 2024-25."

South Africa witnessed a significant influx of tourists from India, with a total of 57,992 arrivals re-

corded from January to October 2024. India has emerged as the seventh-largest overseas international market for South Africa, reflecting its growing significance in bilateral travel ties. Notably, there has been a 25 per cent year-on-year growth in Indian travellers aged 41-50, alongside a 10 per cent increase in family travel to South Africa. Among Indian visitors to the Rainbow Nation in 2024, Mumbai contributes the largest share at 64.3 per cent, followed by Delhi. Leisure travel constitutes 38.8 per cent of overall Indian arrivals, with 18.3 per cent motivated by VFR. Additionally, the MICE segment remains a key focus area, representing 19.1 per cent of Indian travellers within the broader 49.7 per cent MICE and business travel category. For the January to December 2024 period, South African Tourism has set an ambitious target of achieving a 15 per cent growth in arrivals from India.

Growth strategy

Sharing the tourism board's vision for growth, she says, "It's dealing with the key enablers to South Africa, so we've listened to our travel-

the destination so that we start showing different sides to South Africa, not just adventure, but the different experiences that we have in all our nine provinces."

MICE in focus

The MICE segment from India has grown in importance for South Africa in the last five years. "It has sustained the numbers that we have got from the market. Out of the 79,000 that we got in the last financial year, there is a significant portion from MICE. Our groups, incentives, corporate travel increased because there was a matching balance on the ease of access where it was easier to get group visas. We will continue to look at MICE," Guliwe adds.

Engagement with travel partners

Part of the engagements in India for her was to hear from the travel trade and market the destination. "You are on the ground selling. How do we reconcile the two in

such a way that it's efficient for us to convert? So, the trade is important. Part of our targets is the distribution channel enhancement, where we deal with trade and say, you have to package South Africa in such a way that you drive conversion," she says. She also referred to the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme launched for group visas.

Through innovations in visa facilitation and partnerships with Indian tour operators, we aim to make South Africa more accessible and attractive to India

lers, we have listened to the trade, and we are here to share some progress that we've made around issues of visa, around issues of airlift, but more importantly from a destination marketing perspective, around how we're going to market

KEY FACTS ABOUT DESTINATION

- 1 ZAR**
Equals approximately ₹4.5, a favourable exchange rate for South Africa
- 19%**
of Indian travellers are motivated by VFR
- 46%**
business travellers of overall Indian arrivals into South Africa

Bali serves Indian cuisines in style

Celebrated for its North Indian cuisine, Frangipaani's second outlet in Bali combines rich flavours with opulent decor. In an exclusive interview with **TRAVEL TALK**, Shaikh Mokrabin, Executive Chef, Frangipaani at Prana Bali by Impiana Private Villas Seminyak, shares the recipe of restaurant's success and its signature dishes.

Janice Alyosius

Frangipaani, renowned for its North Indian culinary delights, continues to charm diners with the opening of its second outlet in the picturesque locale of Bali. "After the success of our first outlet in Malaysia, which opened in September 2019, this new location promises a gastronomic adventure with a distinctive blend of flavours and opulence," says **Shaikh Mokrabin**, Executive Chef, Frangipaani at Prana Bali by Impiana Private Villas Seminyak.



Shaikh Mokrabin
Executive Chef, Frangipaani at Prana Bali
by Impiana Private Villas Seminyak

and Jain preferences. This ensures that all guests, both from within the hotel and external groups, feel safe and comfortable. We also provide easy access at an affordable price," he explains.

This new location (of Frangipaani restaurant) promises a gastronomic adventure with a distinctive blend of flavours & opulence

Signature dishes to savour
Frangipaani's menu is a culinary symphony of fragrant biryanis, flavorful curries, succulent kebabs, and iconic dishes, such as Butter Chicken and Paneer Tikka. "Our menu showcases a meticulous



dedication to both tradition and taste, with a special focus on North Indian cuisine," Mokrabin adds.

commitment to authenticity is at the heart of what we do."

Maintaining authenticity for international guests

How does Frangipaani manage to balance authentic Indian flavours while catering to international guests. Mokrabin says, "Creating the perfect balance is key. We use special techniques to preserve the authentic taste of Indian dishes, ensuring that we do not compromise on the original flavours. This

Perfect for group bookings and celebrations

Frangipaani is also an ideal venue for group bookings or intimate celebrations. "We accommodate everything from romantic dinners to gala events and thematic nights. With both indoor and outdoor spaces, we can comfortably host up to 80 people, providing a memorable experience tailored to each occasion," he shares.

A dining experience fit for royalty

Emphasising the unique experience the restaurant offers to its guests, Mokrabin says, "Frangipaani provides a fine dining experience where every detail is crafted to evoke the warmth and comfort of home, while enveloping guests in an atmosphere of regal elegance. Each dish is a symphony of flavours, reminiscent of cherished family recipes, elevated to perfection. The luxurious decor and impeccable service ensure that guests feel like royalty, making their dining journey both heartwarming and majestic."



India evolving with new experiences

► Contd. from page 9



Niraj Vashi
Founder & Director
Nivalink

“I am excited to highlight some of India's emerging destinations and experiences for inbound visitors. Wellness resorts are gaining popularity, offering exceptional services and holistic treatments at competitive



Manish Kriplani
Managing Director
Baywatch Travels

“India is evolving as a travel destination, offering new experiences for inbound visitors. In terms of new destinations for inbound guests, Kolkata is great, especially during Durga Puja where we organise an insider's view



Karan Vakharia
Chief Operating Officer
Pathfinders Holidays

“In recent years, there has been a noticeable shift in the preferences of Indian travellers towards sustainable travel options. With increasing awareness about environmental issues and the impact of tourism, more

“Today, India has a lot of new products to offer because of better road infrastructure and improved connectivity with superior hotels and air/ rail connectivity. This has also made travelling to the North East easier. For example, Taj Vivanta in Tawang has brought international standard accommodation. Vijayapur did not have good hotels earlier, which hampered promotion of the Heritage Triangle of Karnataka (Bijapur with Badami and Hampi). But now many good hotels have come up there.”



Farida Attarwala
Director
Butterflyers Holidays

prices. Additionally, clients from the Middle East and Africa are drawn to Kashmir in winter for winter sports. Temple tours in both South and North India remain favourites. Wildlife tours also have a good share.”

“Inbound to India is seasonal, the places that people shy away for few months in a year will see maximum inbound in the other half of the year and vice versa, a classic example is Rajasthan where you will not get a place during winter. However, this has been going on for many years, what we see now is the trend of ‘slow life’ and wellness where guests come and spend the maximum time in a destination, not wanting to do anything but just rejuvenate.”



Ashmi Dharia
Founder
Gypsy Soul Holidays

of the festivities, allowing our guests to witness the artistry, devotion, and cultural richness that make Durga Puja an unforgettable experience. In Bhubaneswar, we offer an Ancient Temple Heritage Walk.”

“India's inbound tourism has always thrived, with the Golden Triangle of Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra being a major draw for visitors. The rich history, iconic landmarks like the Taj Mahal and Amber Fort, and deep cultural roots make this route an essential part of any first-time visit to India. Beyond this, I have seen places like Kerala become favourites for their backwaters, Ayurvedic retreats, and lush landscapes. Cultural Experience at Varanasi and Rishikesh also becoming popular.”



Anshu Tejuja
Managing Director
Ashoka Dream Holidays

travellers are seeking eco-friendly and responsible travel experiences. Today's travellers are not just looking for luxurious accommodations or popular tourist attractions; they are interested in experiences too.”



Nitin Mittal
CEO
Hotel n Apartment

“South Goa, renowned for its serene beaches and hidden gems, remains a top attraction. Highlights include Dudhsagar waterfalls, offering a thrilling jeep ride and a refreshing swim, Cola Beach with



Subhash Motwani
Founder
Namaste Tourism

“On World Tourism Day, we celebrate the growth and unity of global tourism, highlighting its importance in fostering understanding, cultural exchange, and economic development. However, alongside this celebration,



K Ranga Reddy
Chairman, IATO Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Chapter

“Post-COVID many tourists visiting India are keen to visit known sites across India, plus also some not very known places, which are not too crowded and offer some local and unique experiences like festivals, art and

“Post-Covid, Indian tourists are embracing wellness, adventure, and cultural tourism and a surge has also been witnessed in spending on holidays by them. On the other hand, corporates are also ready to increase their budget for domestic MICE. The popular trends and destinations are luxury and wellness retreats with places like Kerala and Rishikesh offering yoga and ayurveda experiences. Adventure tourism like trekking in the Himalayas is also gaining momentum.”



Allan Pachaco
General Manager, Sea Breeze
Sarovar Portico, Varca Goa

its unique freshwater lagoon, and Cabo de Rama Fort, steeped in history. These destinations captivate guests with their blend of adventure, nature, and culture while making them inquisitive for exploring these hidden gems.”

“While we offer a lot of adventure activities internationally, we want to explore what can we offer within India. Within India, we are taking 30-odd runners for the Ladakh marathon, which is one of the highest altitude marathons in the world at 11,500 feet. Gen Z and the millennials are looking at new adventures when they are travelling within India and we would like to cater to them. Insurance plays an important role in adventure activities and there needs to be more awareness about it.”



Pradeep Kumar Rai
MD, Skyline India Travels & Hon. Secy. - TAAI UP & Uttarakhand Chapter

it's crucial to raise awareness about a growing concern for travellers; online fraud and scams in the tourism industry. As more people turn to the internet to book their travel, there is a need to take precautions against fraudulent activities.”

“On this National Tourism Day, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh beckon travellers with unique experiences and destinations. These states offer a harmonious blend of heritage, culture, and modernity, attracting tourists seeking authentic journeys. Telangana enchants visitors with iconic sites like the historic Charminar, Warangal's thousand-pillar temple, and the Pakhal Lake. Textile villages like Pochampally and Gadwal provide hands-on experiences with age-old weaving traditions.”



Deepak Bhatnagar
CEO
Minar Travels

craft workshops, sessions with experts on work-life balance and gastronomy. Also, new segments like wellness and slow travel are new trends, which give a lot of scope to India, which offers great wellness products.”

Compiled by Hazel Jain

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

SKÅL TALK

Published from: ★ India ★ Middle East



Letter from the President

Thank You for a Wonderful 2024 – Together, Let's Achieve More in 2025!

Respected Sk President, Board Members & Members of Skal Delhi (125) Club,

As 2024 comes to a close, we, the national board members of Skal India extend our heartfelt thanks to each skalleague for your unwavering support and dedication. Together, we have driven the growth of global tourism, embodying the spirit of "Doing Business Among Friends". Your contributions have strengthened Skål India and paved the way for exciting opportunities. Looking ahead, our Vision 2025 includes:

- ❖ 25 Clubs across India
- ❖ 2,500 Members united
- ❖ Promoting India's beauty globally through collaboration
- ❖ Expanding global synergies for mutual growth

This vision is only achievable with your continued support and passion. Let's work together to make 2025 a landmark year for Skål India and the tourism industry.

Thank you again for 2024 and let's march together to achieve more in 2025!

– Sanjeev Mehra

Int'l national congress to be held in Mumbai

SKÅL India National Congress 2025 will take place in Mumbai from 12 to 14 September 2025. The event will bring together key stakeholders from the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries

TT Bureau

The SKÅL India National Congress 2025, to be organised under the theme of 'Future Forward: Tourism in an Evolving World', will explore



Sanjeev Mehra
President
SKÅL International India

the opportunities and challenges shaping the global travel and tourism landscape. With sustain-



Mukesh Batra
President
SKÅL International, Mumbai South

ability, technology, and resilience at the forefront, the event aims to explore actionable solutions to drive growth while preserving cultural and environmental heritage. Mumbai will be the host city for the marquee event. Known for its vibrant energy, rich history, and cosmopolitan spirit, Mumbai offers a perfect backdrop for industry leaders to converge.

Industry status is overdue for travel

▶ Contd. from page 11



Kartik Gagar
Founder & CEO
Slo Mo Experiences

“Is India becoming a preferred destination? Absolutely! Our country due to its cultural experiences, natural beauty (north) and adrenaline activities, is becoming a highly sought after adventure destination. Just looking at the Instagram content - the Himalayan region has been covered (post pandemic) with a remarkable increase of newer destinations and unexplored places. This includes Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal. Wildlife tourism has also picked up.”

“We are optimistic about the Union Budget 2025. We hope to see a focus on policies that promote infrastructure development, particularly in key tourist destinations, to improve accessibility and en-



Sandeep Arora
Director
Brightsun Travel, India

hance visitor experiences. The preservation and promotion of heritage sites is also crucial, as it will help attract more international tourists.”

Compiled by Hazel Jain

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE FORTNIGHTLY

EVENT TALK

Published from: ★ India ★ Middle East

JANUARY 2025

Date	Event	Time
15-18	Asia Pacific International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage Conference 2025	9:00 am
16	Oman Tourism Roadshow-Mumbai	11:00 am
17-19	India International Travel Mart Cochin 2025	11:00 am
17-19	Matka Travel Fair 2025	10:00 am
17-20	TAFI Annual Convention	10:00 am
20	U & I Bali Roadshow-Kolkata	10:00 am
21	U & I Bali Roadshow-New Delhi	10:00 am
22-26	FITUR	10:00 am
23	U & I Bali Roadshow-Ahmedabad	10:00 am
24	U & I Bali Roadshow-Mumbai	10:00 am
24-25	Utah Travel Expo 2025	10:00 am
24-26	India International Travel Exhibition Nagpur 2025	11:00 am
30 Jan -1 Feb	OTM Mumbai	10:00 am

FEBRUARY 2025


6-8	Dhaka Travel Mart 2025	10:00 am
8-10	India Travel Mart	9:00 am
9-11	Gujarat Travel Fair 2025	10:00 am
10-12	Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event	10:00 am
11-12	GPS-Nagpur	10:00 am

ProChile celebrates 50 years

ProChile commemorated its 50th anniversary with the Indian stakeholders in New Delhi recently. The event celebrated not just ProChile's achievements, but Chile's evolution as a global player in trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.

Surbhi Sharma

Established to promote Chilean exports, attract foreign investment, and enhance tourism, ProChile has spent five decades showcasing the nation's finest goods, services, and stands as a testament to Chile's commitment to global engagement. The agency commemorated its 50th anniversary with the Indian stakeholders in New Delhi recently. This event celebrated not just ProChile's achievements, but Chile's evolution as a global player in trade, tourism, and cultural exchange.

In a conversation with  **Jorge Andres Loyola Castro**, Chilean Trade Commissioner to India, Embassy of Chile, gave valuable insights about their journey in India.

Journey in India

Castro said that over the past 50 years, ProChile has made significant inroads into the Indian market. "From establishing Chile as a



Jorge Andres Loyola Castro
Chilean Trade Commissioner to India
Embassy of Chile

trusted exporter of walnuts, kiwis, cherries, and wine, to fostering tech collaborations with Indian hubs, the agency's impact is profound. Sustainability is a cornerstone of this relationship, with green innovation like green hydrogen taking centre stage. Notably, Chile has earned recognition as the Leading Green Destination at the 2024 World Travel Awards for the 10th consecutive year. Looking forward, ProChile is

set to deepen ties with India, promoting Chile's landscapes, culture, and products," he said.

Capturing Indian travellers

Explaining how ProChile strategically positioned Chile as a preferred

destination for Indian travellers, Castro talked about the initiatives like Chile Summit India 2024, Flavors from Chile, and Know Chile Through Wines, which have blended tourism with cultural expe-

Through targeted campaigns, trade delegations, and co-branded efforts, ProChile has enhanced the visibility of Chilean products in India

Strengthening trade ties

Castro said that ProChile's collaborations with Indian trade partners go beyond tourism. "Through targeted campaigns, trade delegations, and co-branded efforts, the agency has enhanced the visibility of Chilean products in India.



Beauty Has An Address
#experienceoman

experience
oman



Travstarz Global Group
A CTSP® Invested Company
DMC || CONSOLIDATORS || VISAS || REPRESENTATIONS



Experience Oman with Travstarz

5 Days/ 4 Nights

Package Inclusions:

- 03 Nights' stay with breakfast in Muscat
- 01 Night on Half Board at Sama Jabal Akhdar
- Private airport transfers
- Full Day Muscat City Tour (Muscat fish market in Muttrah, Grand Mosque, House of Amouage, Rooyal Opera House Muscat, Bait Al Zubair Museum, Al Alam Palace, Portuguese Forts Mirani & Jalali)
- Dolphin watching group tour
- Private 02 days in a 4WD with chauffeur
- Entrance fees and local taxes

USD 770
Per
Person

Ministry of Heritage and Tourism | experienceoman.om

Phone No: 011 45515907 | bookings@travstarz.com | www.travstarz.com

59A/2, 1st Floor, Kalu Sarai, Near Hauz Khas Metro Station, New Delhi - 110016

Official Promotion Partner Oman Tourism

Your Trusted Exclusively B2B Company Since 2009

Member Of:



MOVEMENTS

EASEMYTRIP

New Delhi

RIKANT PITTIE has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of EaseMyTrip. In his new role, Pittie will lead the company's strategic initiatives, drive innovation, and enhance customer experiences to further strengthen the company's position in the industry. Pittie co-founded EaseMyTrip in 2008 and has been instrumental in its growth and success over the years. With over 16 years of experience in the travel and tourism industry, he has a deep understanding of market trends and customer needs. Under his leadership, EaseMyTrip has achieved significant growth, reflecting its commitment to a customer-first approach.



IATO

Punjab

In a recent development, the IATO Executive Committee has appointed **GURINDER SINGH**, Managing Director of Discover Punjab Tours & Travels, as the Chairman of IATO Punjab Chapter with effect from 6 January 2025. Singh has been in the tourism industry since 2004. Keeping in view his vast experience in the industry, he is expected to make a valuable contribution to IATO and make the association's membership base stronger. With his close contacts with Punjab Tourism Government officials, IATO will closely work with the Punjab Government. Discover Punjab Tours & Travels is an Amritsar-based travel company.



ARALEA BEACH RESORT

BY STONE WOOD PREMIER

Morjim, North Goa

SUBHRO MUKHOPADHYAY has been appointed as the General Manager of Aralea Beach Resort by Stone Wood Premier, Morjim, North Goa. With over 22 years of experience across tourism, hospitality and aviation industries, Mukhopadhyay brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the role. He has worked with prestigious brands, including Hyat, Sahara Airlines, Jet Airways, Qatar Airways, Lufthansa, Zuri Hotels, Royal Orchid Hotels and Fern Hotels.



AKASA AIR

Mumbai

Akasa Air appoints **BELSON COUTINHO** as the Chief Operating Officer, effective 6 January 2025. Coutinho will lead Akasa Air's crucial operational functions as the airline continues its path to becoming one of the top 30 airlines in the world by the turn of this decade. In his new role, Coutinho will be responsible for in-flight services, airport services, maintenance and engineering, flight operations, IOCC, operational excellence while also spearheading Akasa Air Learning Academy. With over two decades of experience in the aviation industry, he has delivered multiple industry-first initiatives in Indian aviation.



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE (NCL)

Mumbai

Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) has promoted **DAMIAN BORG** to the position of Senior Director of Sales Strategy & Operations for Asia Pacific following strong growth from the region and positioning for continued success in Asia. Borg's expanded role will continue to support Ben Angell, Vice President and Managing Director, NCL APAC across Asia, to focus on the fly/ cruise market for NCL to key destinations including Europe, Alaska and Hawaii while also providing strategic guidance to the four country managers in the region, which he will be leading.



GRT HOTELS & RESORTS

Chennai

GRT Hotels & Resorts has appointed **PUNEET DUTTA** as the Chief Operating Officer (COO). With a distinguished career spanning over 20 years in the hospitality industry, Dutta brings a wealth of experience in driving operational excellence and strategic growth. His expertise also lies in leading cross cultural environment, hotel pre-opening and property turnaround. He is known for his ability to craft strategy and streamline operations. In his new role, he will oversee the brand's operations, ensuring seamless integration and efficiency across all properties. He will also spearhead the group's expansion strategy.



BENGALURU MARRIOTT HOTEL WHITEFIELD

Bengaluru

Bengaluru Marriott Hotel Whitefield has appointed **LAKKIMSETTI SIVA KUMAR** as the Director of Finance. In the pivotal role, Kumar will lead the hotel's financial operations, playing a key part in shaping the hotel's financial strategy, optimising operational efficiencies, and driving continued success. He stepped into the new role following his successful tenure as Director of Finance at Aloft Bengaluru Outer Ring Road, where he played an instrumental role in overseeing financial operations, enhancing financial processes, and managing the property's finances with excellence.



ROYAL ORCHID & REGENTA HOTELS

Greater Noida

Royal Orchid & Regenta Hotels has promoted **VINAY CHATURVEDI** to the position of Assistant Vice President, Punjab. He is an astute professional with more than 24 years of experience with prominent hospitality brands. He has played a significant role in revenue generation with his all-round experience in pre-opening of hotels and resorts, food & beverage, sales & marketing, finance planning, training & development, and rooms division. In his new role, Chaturvedi will be responsible for providing strategic guidance in operating the group's hotels in Punjab.



ENCALM HOSPITALITY

Gurugram

Encalm has appointed **SUSMITA KHARE** as Group Head – HR & Training. With an illustrious career spanning 27 years in Human Resource Leadership and Management across Hospitality, Entertainment, Education, and F&B Retail, Khare brings a wealth of expertise and passion for people-centric organisational development. In her new role, she will oversee the strategic management of human resources at Encalm, focusing on employee engagement, culture building, organisational development, and leadership training. She has worked with prominent organisations.



THE WESTIN MUMBAI POWAI LAKE & LAKESIDE CHALET - MARRIOTT EXECUTIVE APARTMENTS

Mumbai

SUMANA BOSE CHOUDHARY has been appointed as Director of Sales by The Westin Mumbai Powai Lake & Lakeside Chalet – Marriott Executive Apartments. With over 14 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Choudhary brings a wealth of knowledge, leadership, and strategic vision to her new role. Her impressive track record includes leadership roles with renowned hospitality brands, such as Marriott, Hyatt, Accor, Carlson Rezidor, and The Park.



AAMAGHATI WILDLIFE RESORT

New Delhi

Aamaghati Wildlife Resort has appointed **RAVINDRA NATH PUROHIT** as the General Manager. In the new role, Purohit will be instrumental in spearheading the resort's operations, driving guest satisfaction, and ensuring excellence across all aspects of hospitality. He brings over 16 years of diverse experience in the hospitality industry, having worked with some of India's most notable properties, including Taj Rambagh Palace. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated exceptional skills in operations management, financial planning, staff training, and customer relationship management.



THE FERN HOTELS & RESORTS

Mumbai

The Fern Hotels & Resorts has appointed **ASHISH TOMAR** as the General Manager - Business Development. With over 11 years of diverse experience in the hospitality industry, Tomar is set to play a pivotal role in driving the company's growth and expansion across India. In his new role, Tomar will be responsible for spearheading the company's hotel acquisition and development initiatives. His primary focus will be on expanding the company's national footprint by leading innovative hotel projects, leveraging management contracts and revenue-sharing models.



ENGAGE. INSPIRE.
LEAD - WITH MICETALK
INDIA'S FIRST & ONLY MICE MAGAZINE

Harshal

Arumita Gupta

Meetu Malhotra

+91 9619499167, harshal@ddppl.com

+91 9650399908, Arumita.gupta@ddppl.com

+91 9650911399, meetu.malhotra@ddppl.com



FLYING AT 35,000 FT. WILL FEEL A LITTLE HIGHER.

Step aboard an elevated experience with Air India on key metro routes. With all flights operated by the familiar Vistara fleet, it's sure to be an uplifting feeling*.

DEL ⇌ BOM
56 DAILY

DEL ⇌ BLR
36 DAILY

DEL ⇌ HYD
24 DAILY

BOM ⇌ BLR
22 DAILY

BOM ⇌ HYD
18 DAILY



*Subject to further progressive network calibration and operational constraints.
*Air India will continue to operate certain widebody flights between Delhi and Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad using its Boeing 777, 787 or Airbus A350 aircraft, which will have 'AI'-prefixed three-digit flight numbers.

'Bridge inbound-outbound disparity'

India's tourism sector is at a critical stage, burdened by policy roadblocks, infra gaps, and imbalance in inbound and outbound travel. Arjun Sharma, Chairman, Select Group, suggests bold reforms and innovative strategies to unlock the country's vast potential.

 Janice Alyosius

Drawing attention to the systemic inefficiencies and policy shortcomings faced by India's tourism sector, **Arjun Sharma**, Chairman, Select Group, recently made a compelling case for transformative change to ensure the sector's long-term sustainable growth. His insights ranged from addressing regulatory hurdles to reimagining the potential of inbound tourism and workforce diversity. Sharma urged stakeholders to act decisively to harness India's tourism potential.

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) policy hurdles

A significant portion of Sharma's discourse revolved around the restrictive Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) policy, which, according to him, hinders hotel and infrastructure development in India's coastal regions. "We have an environmental policy, a CRZ policy, that



looks at hotel development on our coastal areas limited to the population. Nowhere else in the world does such a policy exist," he said.

Sharma elaborated on the delays and complications caused by the policy, particularly in Goa. "We waited for five or six years for that policy to come into force. Now, a state like Goa has not even approved the 2019 policy. Permissions in the CRZ zone will not be accepted because that policy has not been notified by the government of Goa. We need to look at infrastructure status also from a CRZ perspective. That would be my plea," he stressed.

Inbound versus outbound tourism

Sharma highlighted the worrying disparity between inbound and outbound tourism in India, noting that the country is currently a net exporter of tourism. "We probably have heard 9 million, 10 million, or even 12 million inbound tourists, but if you ask branded hotels and tour operators, the organised inbound tourism is no more than one to 1.5 million," he revealed. On the other hand, outbound tourism is growing at an unprecedented pace. "We have heard 27 million outbound tourists,

but serious players in the industry estimate the number closer to 9 million. Today, we are net exporters of tourism," he explained.

Sharma warned of the long-term economic implications of the imbalance. "With India's economy


We have heard 27 mn outbound tourists, but serious players in the industry estimate the number closer to 9 mn. Today, we are net exporters of tourism

moving from \$3 trillion to \$5 trillion, outbound tourism will grow exponentially. In five years, we could be spending close to \$100 billion in foreign exchange on outbound travel. Meanwhile, our inbound income will continue at a slow growth rate. This imbalance could pose a significant challenge," he cautioned.

Misaligned infra growth

Acknowledging the growth in aviation and infrastructure, Sharma criticised its limited alignment with the needs of inbound tourism. "We have heard about the arrival of

1,200 new planes. These planes, however, are predominantly serving outbound tourism markets. If we fail to strategically align this growth to inbound tourism, we risk losing a significant opportunity to showcase India as a preferred destination," he noted. Sharma emphasised the importance of establishing direct international connections to destinations within India.

Private sector's involvement

Sharma advocated for the establishment of a centralised body akin to Invest India that would oversee tourism development across states and ministries. "This body must be predominantly driven by the private sector, with significant government involvement to ensure efficiency and accountability," he suggested. Sharma also underscored the need to prioritise gender diversity within the tourism workforce.

Suggestions to fund inbound

In a bid to generate revenue for promoting inbound tourism, Sharma proposed an unconventional solution - taxing outbound tourism. "Time will run out if we don't find some out-of-the-box solution. Is there time to start taxing genuine outbound tourism—say \$10 or \$15 per traveller—and using that money for inbound tourism? I know this suggestion will face resistance, but it's worth considering," he said.



CROSS
HOTELS & RESORTS

CROSS PAASHA BALI SEMINYAK

sales@crosshotelsandresorts.in,
+91 9599076699

buzz travel marketing
managing your destinations' image
CIN: 183040DL2004PTC129336



GET YOUR FREE COPY

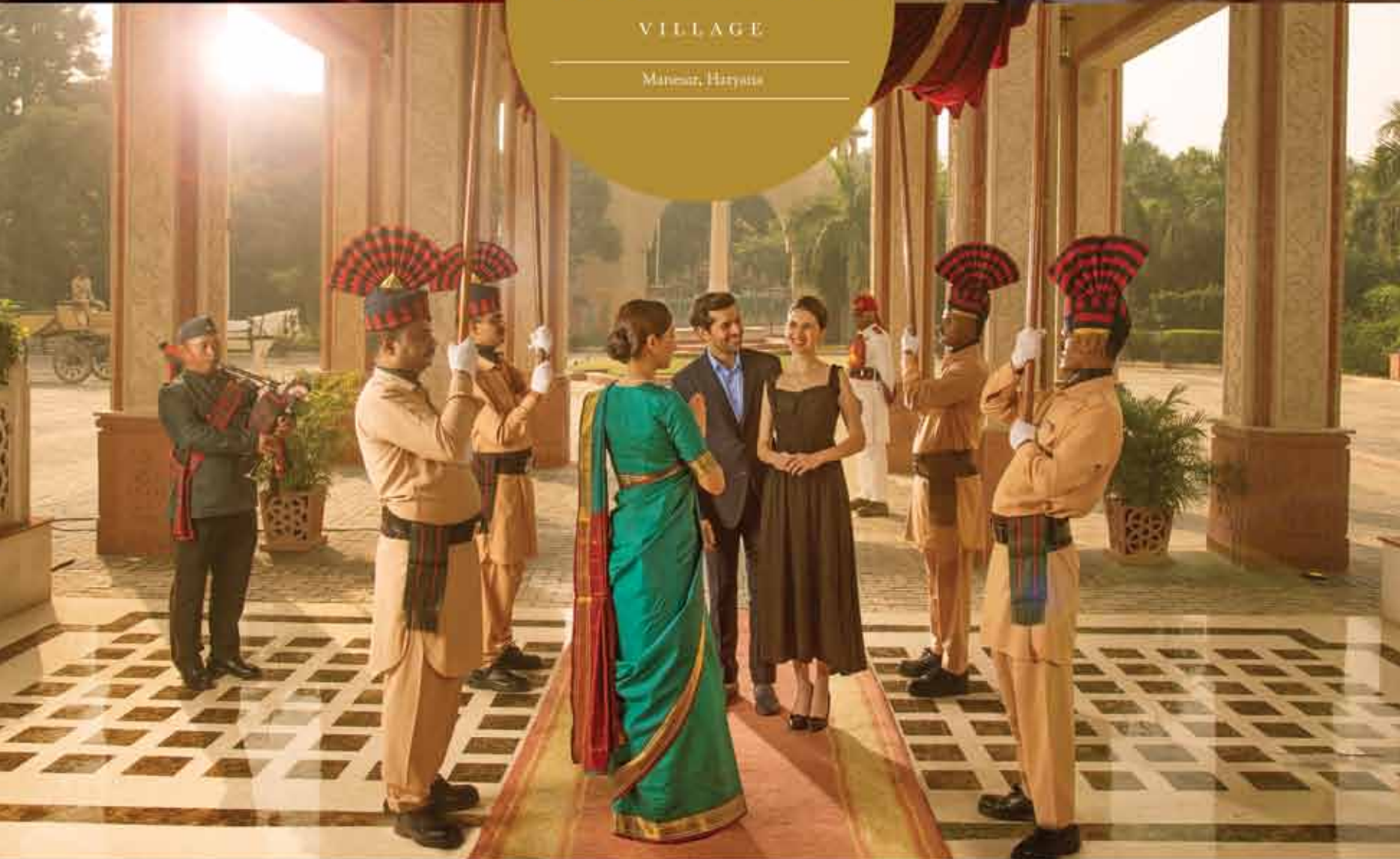
If you want to receive HotelTalk monthly please email hoteltalk@ddppl.com
Name | Designation | Company | Email | Mobile Number | Full postal address

Meetu: +91 9650911399, meetu.malhotra@ddppl.com
Harshal: +91 9619499167, harshal@ddppl.com





resorts & spa
HERITAGE
VILLAGE
Mansarovar, Hyderabad



Your business meetings. ELEVATED!

8 Halls & Meeting Rooms | State-of-the-art AV facilities | Projectors & Video Conferencing | Curated Dining Experiences for teams and top management

📞 For reservations call: +91-8448896384 🌐 Visit: heritagevillageresorts.com



Discover **Europe**
guided & together

viacation

ATTRACTIVE
COMMISSIONS



Best of Schengen
13 Nights / 14 Days

~~₹3,42,999*~~ **₹3,29,199***



Highlights of Europe
10 Nights / 11 Days

~~₹2,64,799*~~ **₹2,55,599***



Viacation Super Saver
8 Nights / 9 Days

~~₹2,37,199*~~ **₹2,27,999***



Highlights of Paris and Swiss
6 Nights / 7 Days

~~₹2,18,799*~~ **₹2,09,599***

*Rates mentioned are per person on twin sharing basis and are valid till 31 January 2025. Includes airfares, visas, accommodation, sightseeing, transfers, tours and meals as per itinerary. ROE used is 1 EURO = ₹92. GST and TCS is extra. Terms and conditions apply.

www.viacation.com
enquiry@viacation.com

@viacationofficial viacationofficial

9004008881

“Partner with us, own our franchise”

OUR STORES: MUMBAI • NEW DELHI • GURUGRAM • CHANDIGARH • LUDHIANA • AMRITSAR • JAIPUR • RAIPUR • BENGALURU

India and International Holidays, Escorted Group Tours, Bespoke Holidays and More...
Flights, Hotels, Transfers, Attractions, Cruises, Meetings, Incentives and More...