

Politics & Democracy

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A photograph of Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, sitting in a meditative yoga pose (Padmasana) on a green mat. He is wearing a white kurta and a yellow and orange striped shawl with a red floral pattern. His hands are in a Namaste mudra (prayer position) with palms together. He has a white beard and is wearing glasses. The background shows other people in similar poses, suggesting a large-scale yoga event.

International Yoga Day 2022

“International days are occasions to educate the general public on issues of concern, to mobilise political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.” – United Nations (UN)



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Udaipur - Kumbalgarh - Jodhpur -
Jaisalmer - Bikaner - Mandawa - Delhi

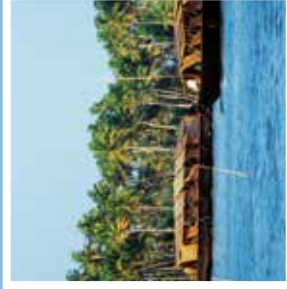


Archaeological Tour of

Rajasthan

21 to 23 Nights

Delhi - Jaipur - Sumode - Nawalgarh -
Bikaner - Gajner - Jaisalmer - Osian
- Khimsar - Manvar - Jodhpur - Rohet -
Mount Abu - Udaipur - Dungarpur
- Deogarh - Ajmer - Pushkar - Pachewar
- Ranthambhore - Agra - Delhi



Majestic Kerala

14 to 15 Nights

Mumbai - Mangalore - Bekal - Wayanad
- Kozhikode(Calicut)
- Cochin - Thekkady - Kumarakom -
Qullon - Varkala - Kovalam



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Phuntsholing - Thimphu - Punakha -
Paro - Delhi



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- Baliguda
- Rayagada - Jeypore - Rayagada -
Gopalpur - Puri - Bhubaneswar



Buddhist Temple with

North East India Tour

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- Pelling (Pemayangtse) - Gangtok -
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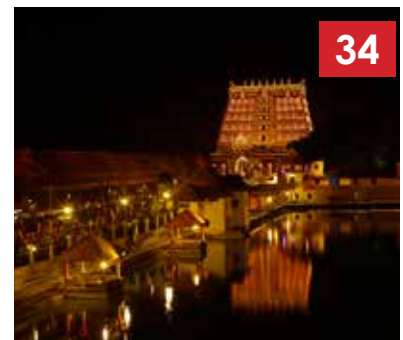
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Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches National Air Sports Policy

Over INR 8,000 crore annual revenue and 1,00,000 direct jobs to be generated. NASP will help India become the Global Capital for Air Sports: Shri Scindia

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Surat Airport gearing up with world-class facilities



Surat, the financial capital of Gujarat and hub for diamond and textile business in India, attracts air travelers in large numbers. Considering the magnificent rise in passenger traffic, Airports Authority of India (AAI) is working towards the holistic development of the airport with a project cost of Rs 353 Crores.

The development project includes extension of existing terminal building from 8,474 sq m to 25,520 sq m. In addition to the extension of terminal building, the expansion

of apron from five parking bays to 18 parking bays and construction of parallel taxi track (2905 m X 30 m) is also in progress.

After completion of project, the new state-of-the-art extended terminal building will handle 1,200 Domestic and 600 International passengers' during peak hours. This makes an annual passenger capacity of 2.6 Million. Equipped with all modern passenger amenities, the terminal building will have 20 check-in counters, five aerobridges, In-Line baggage handling system,

and five conveyor belts for arriving passengers. The new terminal building will also have a parking area with a capacity for 475 cars.

The terminal will be a 4-Star GRIHA rated energy efficient building with sustainability features. The interiors of the terminal building will reflect the art and culture of Gujarat. More than 58% of the work for extension of terminal building is complete and the building will be ready by 31st December 2022.

Surat Airport caters to a large number of business community across the country, as it is directly connected to 16 cities across the country. The new world-class terminal building of the airport will enhance the connectivity to this industrial city, giving impetus to the overall growth of the region.

Cabinet approves Development of New Greenfield Airport Dholera, Ahmedabad

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for development of Phase I of New Greenfield Airport at Dholera, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,305 crore, to be completed within 48 months.

The project is being implemented by Dholera International Airport Company Limited (DIACL), which is a Joint Venture Company between Airports Authority of India (AAI),

Government of Gujarat (GoG) and National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) holding equity in the ratio of 51:33:16.

Dholera Airport is to get Passenger and Cargo traffic from Dholera Special Investment Region (DSIR) and is expected to become a major cargo hub to serve the industrial region. This Airport will also cater to the nearby region and serve as a second airport to Ahmedabad.

The New Greenfield Airport

at Dholera is situated at an aerial distance of 80 Km from Ahmedabad Airport. The Airport is planned to be operationalized from the year 2025-26 and the initial passenger traffic is estimated to be 3 lakh passengers per annum. Passenger traffic at the airport is expected to grow to 23 lakh over a period of 20 years. The estimated annual cargo traffic for the year 2025-26 is 20,000 tonne, which would increase to 2,73,000 tonne over a period of 20 years.



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CCI approves 100% acquisition Air Asia India

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Air Asia India by Air India

The proposal envisages the acquisition of the entire equity share capital of AirAsia (India) Private Limited (Air Asia India) by Air India Ltd. (AIL), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of TSPL. At present, TSPL holds 83.67% of the equity share capital of Air Asia India.

AIL, along with its wholly-owned subsidiary, Air India Express Limited (AIXL), is primarily engaged in the business of providing (a) domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, (b) international scheduled air passenger transport service, (c) air cargo transport services in India, and (d) charter flight services in India. Air Asia India is a joint venture between TSPL and Air India Investment Limited (AAIL) with TSPL presently holding 83.67% and AAIL holding 16.33% of the shareholding. 100% of the shares will now be transferred to AIL.

Air Asia India operates under the brand name "AirAsia". It is engaged in the business of providing the following services: (a) domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, (b) air cargo transport services, and (c) charter flight services in India. AirAsia India does not provide scheduled air passenger transport services on international routes.



Mitali Express will boost tourism, and economic activity on both sides of the Indo- Bangladesh border

Governments of India and Bangladesh, after several meetings, decided to start a new passenger train service, Mitali Express, via the recently-restored Haldibari-Chilahati rail link. This will further strengthen connectivity through Rail between India and Bangladesh. This third passenger train service between New Jalpaiguri (India) and Dhaka (Bangladesh) was virtually inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of both countries on 27th March, 2021. It was flagged-off virtually by Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways of India and Md. Nurul Islam Sujon, Hon'ble Railway Minister of Bangladesh, from Rail Bhavan, New Delhi on 1 June, 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that "the Mitali Express will be yet another milestone in increasing this friendship, in strengthening this bond, in improving this relationship. The development is accelerated in a very big way by the warm friendship between the two nations at all the levels. Lots of collaborative efforts have been made between the two railways. It is a very opportune moment; a moment when we should take bigger steps to cement our relationship between the two nations."

Mitali Express train will leave New Jalpaiguri at 11:45 hours on

Sunday and Wednesday and reach Dhaka at 22:30 hours the same day. It will leave Dhaka at 21:50 hours on Monday and Thursday and reach New Jalpaiguri at 07:15 hours the next day. The journey will cover a distance of 595 kms from New Jalpaiguri to Dhaka of which 61 Kms lies in India.

The Indian Railways LHB coach, as used in Maitree Express and Bandhan Express, will be used in this train. It will comprise 4 First AC, 4 AC Chair Car and 2 Power cars. There will be three classes – AC First (Cabin) Sleeper, AC First (Cabin) seat and AC Chair car, and the one-way fare will be USD 44, USD 33 and USD 22 respectively.

The additional new passenger service, Mitali Express, will give a boost to tourism of both the countries since it connects Bangladesh with North Bengal as well as North Eastern region of India. This will also provide an access to Nepal to Bangladeshi citizens via India by rail.

This new train is in addition to two existing passenger train services, namely Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express (five days in a week) and Kolkata-Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express (two days in a week) between India and Bangladesh. The services of these two trains, were suspended due to Covid Pandemic restrictions, but have now been resumed w.e.f. 29 May, 2022.

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GUINEA	TAIPEI TV	AFGHANISTAN	ROMANIA	SAUDI ARABIA	AFGHANISTAN
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International Yoga Day 2022

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The UN has embraced International days as a powerful tool of advocacy even though their existence predates the establishment of the United Nations. Many actors organise activities related to the theme of the day. Organisations and offices of the UN, governments, civil society, the public, and private sectors, schools, universities, and citizens, carry out awareness-raising actions on this day.

International days are proposed to the UN General Assembly by Member States. The General Assembly then decides by consensus whether to adopt the resolution



establishing the particular day.

The International Days also serve as an indicator of the interest that a given subject attracts in each part of

the world.

International Yoga Day

The International Yoga Day is celebrated annually on 21 June. The



United Nations General Assembly established the International Yoga Day through its Resolution adopted on 11 December 2014, accepting the suggestion made by the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, in his UN address on 27 September 2014. In his address Mr. Narendra Modi said -

“Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help in well-being. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.”

— Narendra Modi, UN General Assembly

India's Permanent Representative to the UN introduced the draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 11 December 2014. The draft text received broad support from

Member States who sponsored the text, and it was adopted without a vote. The initiative found support from many global leaders. A total of 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution, which is so far, the highest number of co-sponsors for any UNGA resolution of this nature.

Significance of the Date

The longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, commonly referred to as the Summer Solstice, falls on 21 June and has significance in many cultures around the world. For the Yogic Culture, this date holds significance as the very beginning of Yoga.

Lord Shiva is considered to be the originator of Yoga. It is said that Lord Shiva was sitting in blissful meditation for years. Many people flocked to him out of curiosity, but he did not pay heed to them. The Seven Sages or Saptarishis stayed and sat still for 84 years just to be able to learn from Lord Shiva. On the day of the Summer Solstice, when the sun shifts from the northern to the southern hemisphere, Lord Shiva

took notice of these seven sages. 28 days later, on the full moon, Lord Shiva the first Yogi, transmitted the science of Yoga to the Saptarishis. Yoga was brought to the people by the Saptarishis.

The International Yoga Day observances

2015

The first International Yoga Day was observed internationally on 21 June 2015. In India, the Ministry of AYUSH made the necessary arrangements at the Rajpath in New Delhi. Around 36,000 people including the Indian Prime Minister and dignitaries from 84 countries participated in the event. They performed yoga asanas for 35 minutes. As a result, this event was recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest yoga class.

Millions of people around the world observed the International Day. In San Francisco nearly 5,000 people took part in the event at Marina Green Park.

2016

The International Yoga Day for 2016 was widely received across the globe. In India, the day was marked by greater participation and enthusiasm by the youth of the country. The Government organized an event titled “The National Event of Mass Yoga Demonstration” at Chandigarh. The Prime Minister of India also participated in this Yoga event.

India’s Permanent Mission to the UN organized an event titled the “Conversation with Yoga Masters – Yoga for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”.

2017

The theme for the Yoga event

was “Yoga for Health”. There were 51,000 participants at an event held at Lucknow in which a number of business leaders and the Indian Prime Minister, participated.

Internationally, events with a large turnout took place in USA, Japan, China, Greece and Ukraine.

2018

The theme for this year’s International Yoga Day was “Yoga for Peace”.

In India the Forest Research Institute held an event at Dehradun which had 50,000 participants. The Indian Prime Minister led the event by performing various Yoga Asanas. At the same time over 100,000 people performed Yoga at the same time at an event in Kota, Rajasthan

to earn a mention in the Guinness Book of World Records.

2019

The theme for the 5th International Yoga Day was “Yoga for the Heart”. The main event was held at Ranchi, Bihar, with the Indian Prime Minister leading 40,000 participants.

At the event it was announced that the government would work to make Yoga a pillar for preventive healthcare and wellness.

2020

In view of the global lock-down and strict curbs relating to the pandemic, the theme for the International Yoga Day was “Yoga





and Home and Yoga with the Family". A number of online events took place this year where people connected to perform Yoga at home.

2021

The theme for this year's International Yoga Day was "Yoga for well-being". The events across the globe continued to be held virtually. The Indian Permanent Mission to the UN organized an online event on the UN WebTV.

The 8th International Yoga Day 2022

The 8th International Yoga Day was celebrated on 21 June 2022.

The people around the world have faced difficult times over

the past two years in view of the COVID 19 pandemic. The world witnessed numerous untimely deaths of loved ones and many people suffered a negative impact on their health and mental well-being, including depression and anxiety. Yoga offers a means to overcome such negative impact. The UN therefore chose "Yoga for Humanity" as the theme for this event. According to United Nations, the year's theme was relevant "for our times in a society still recovering from the impact of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic".

In India the main event was held at the Mysuru Palace grounds with the Indian Prime Minister leading the participants at the

venue including the Governor of Karnataka. In keeping with the overarching theme of 75 years of India's independence, 75 heritage and iconic locations were identified by the Ministry of AYUSH. 75 Union Ministers participated at events held at these locations.

A novel program "Guardian Yoga Ring" has also been launched with the participation of 79 countries, UN organizations, and Indian Missions abroad. The purpose of the program is to demonstrate Yoga's unifying effect which transcends international boundaries.

A growing way of life

The international popularity of Yoga is spreading rapidly. For many it has transitioned from a method of exercise to a way of life.



MoHUA pushes for “Swachh Teerth”

The Centre has asked the States of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha to take urgent steps to ensure that the ongoing Kedarnath Yatra and upcoming Amarnath Yatra and Rath Yatra are conducted in a manner to ensure high levels of cleanliness. In this regard, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Shri Manoj Joshi has written to the Chief Secretaries of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha.

The communication from MoHUA specifies various initiatives to be taken for sanitation and waste management. The States have been requested to provide for sufficient numbers of public toilets for both men and women throughout the approach roads to the Shrines, and ensure that they are kept clean, hygienic, and usable at all times. All eateries along the approach roads will need to be sensitized about garbage collection, in-situ processing of the food waste



through waste to compost / waste to bio-gas units in their premises, usage of bio-degradable cutlery and bags. The advisory suggests that plastics and SUPs should be stopped at the base-camp level for Kedarnath and Amarnath yatris at the time of registration itself. In order to prevent indiscriminate littering by visitors, segregated litter bins will have to be placed along the approach roads, along with

regular emptying of the same. Most importantly, the advisory stresses on large scale people participation, whereby all local NGOs/ CSOs/ voluntary organisations, self-help groups from all villages and towns on the approach roads are to be identified, sensitized and tagged to work in designated areas to ensure that cleanliness is maintained at every step. Local swachhata brand ambassadors are to be identified and designated for the ‘swachh yatra’, to spread the message of cleanliness, to motivate visitors to behave responsibly, and to help in maintaining ‘swachhata’.

National teams from MoHUA are being deputed to Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha to take stock of the preparations underway and also to provide inputs for improving sanitation and garbage management. Video-conference meetings have been scheduled with State, city and district officials to discuss the preparedness.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his 89th Mann Ki Baat address to the nation on 29th May 2022, had expressed his concern regarding the heap of filth in Kedarnath. He made an appeal for maintaining the dignity of these pilgrimage sites through purity and cleanliness, as it is imperative that we abide by the resolution of cleanliness.

Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban, being implemented by MoHUA, is committed to create “Garbage Free Cities” through comprehensive sanitation measures, and safe management of solid and liquid waste in all statutory towns in the country. Centres for Pilgrimage and Heritage where the footfalls are higher are taken up on priority under the Mission.

Sagarmala Young Professionals Scheme to engage Young Professionals in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has formulated a scheme to engage talented, forward-thinking and dynamic young professionals in various divisions of the Ministry.

The scheme focuses on active on-the-ground learning for young professionals. The professionals will get an opportunity to learn about the functioning of the government as well as developmental policy concerns. Professionals will be required to deliver high-quality inputs in areas such as infrastructure, data analysis, project management, start-up, innovation, skill development, digital transformation and the environment, among others, in

order to meet Ministry's needs.

The scheme will foster active involvement of young people in decision-making. This will further contribute to social wellness at an individual level, by boosting self-esteem and a sense of empowerment, and bring about crucial benefits for societies such as an enhanced awareness for common concerns and a joint resolve to identify solutions that work in the long term.

Initially, more than 25 young professionals will be hired under this scheme. Professionals will be required to have qualification in B.E/ B.Tech, B. Planning and/ or MBA or equivalent degree in relevant subject/ field and

minimum three year of relevant work experience. Professionals in Accountancy, Finance, Legal, Statistics, Economics/Commerce, Data Analytics will also be engaged based on requirement of the Ministry. The initial period of engagement shall be 2 years which can be extended by an additional 2 years on the basis of performance

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH stated "Engaging young people in government initiatives can increase their understanding and interest in administrative functioning, as well as encourage active citizenship. It will also raise awareness about maritime sector among youth."

List of Centrally Protected Monuments in Arunachal Pradesh to be expanded

A full team from the National Monuments Authority will visit ancient monuments specially those bordering Tibet-China region of Arunachal Pradesh, between 14th to 18th June, 2022. The team will also meet local tribal leaders to find places of indigenous faith which connect Arunachal Pradesh with other parts of the nation through legends and verbal history. The full team of NMA will comprise of the two members Shri Hemraj Kamdar and Prof Kailash Rao, in addition to Chairman Shri Tarun Vijay.

Shri Tarun Vijay said that it goes to the credit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

who initiated an annual yatra from Arunachal to Porbandar in Gujarat, strengthening the cultural threads woven around the legacy of Rukmani in a most thrilling and enlightening manner. Arunachal Pradesh has lagged behind in the area of Heritage Protection and enlisting new monuments in the Centrally Protected list of national archaeological sites. The stream of the local indigenous faiths and their monuments, tangible and intangible heritage connecting them to the western most coast in Gujarat and other parts of India has remained relatively unnoticed and unrecognized.

The NMA team will meet village

elders and leaders of various tribes. Each of them have fascinating stories about Dharma and cultural connect through ancient monuments with mainland India. A report will be submitted to the Minister of Culture and the Prime Minister, suggesting new additions in the list of Centrally Protected Monuments and identifying cultural tourism sites that strengthen national unity in the context of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The Parushuram Kund, Bhishmaknagar, Bhalukpong and Tawang are a few indigenous sites of archaeological importance which connect Arunachal Pradesh with Gujarat, Goa, Kerala and the Yadava community, he said.

Department of Consumer Affairs raises issues of service charge with stakeholders

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) will soon come up with a robust framework to ensure strict compliance by the stakeholders with regard to service charge levied by restaurants and hotels as it adversely affects consumers on a daily basis.

The Department held a meeting with restaurant associations and consumer organizations on levy of service charge in hotels and restaurants. The meeting was chaired by Shri Rohit Kumar Singh, Secretary, DoCA.

The meeting was attended by major restaurant associations including National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) and consumer organizations including Mumbai Grahak Panchayat, Pushpa Girimaji etc.

During the meeting, major issues raised by the consumers on National Consumer Helpline of DoCA relating to service charge such as compulsory levy of service charge, adding the charge by default without express consent of consumer, suppressing that such charge is optional and voluntary, and embarrassing consumers if they resist paying such charge etc. were discussed. Further, guidelines on fair trade practices related to charging of service charge by hotels/restaurants dated 21.04.2017 published by DoCA were also referred to.

The restaurant associations observed that when service charge is mentioned on the menu, it involves

an implied consent of the consumer to pay the charge. Service charge is used by restaurants/hotels to pay the staff and workers and is not charged for the experience or food served to consumer by the restaurant/hotel.

Consumer Organizations observed that levying service charge is patently arbitrary and constitutes an unfair as well as restrictive trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act. Questioning the legitimacy of such charge, it was highlighted that since there is no bar on restaurants/hotels on fixing their food prices, including an additional charge in the name of service charge is detrimental to the rights of consumers.

As stated in the earlier guidelines dated 21.04.2017 published by DoCA, placing an order by a customer amounts to his agreement to pay prices in the menu along with applicable taxes. Charging for anything other than the aforementioned, without express consent of the consumer, would amount to unfair trade practice under the Act. Further, considering entry of a customer to a restaurant/hotel as an implied consent to pay service charge would amount to imposition of an unjustified cost on customer as a condition precedent to placing an order for food and would fall under restrictive trade practice under the Act.

Since this adversely affects millions of consumers on a daily basis, the Department will soon come up with a robust framework to ensure strict compliance by the stakeholders.



Presidential Election, 2022

By a Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary today (the 15th of June, 2022), the Election Commission has fixed the following schedule for the Presidential Election, 2022:-

- a. June 29, 2022, as the last date for making nominations;
- b. June 30, 2022, as the date for the scrutiny of nominations;
- c. July 2, 2022, as the last date for the withdrawal of candidatures; and
- d. July 18, 2022, as the date on which a poll shall, if necessary, be taken.

By another Notification issued on the 13th of June, 2022, the Commission has appointed Shri P. C. Mody, Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, as the Returning officer for the Presidential Election, 2022 and Shri Mukul Pandey, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) and Shri Surendra Kumar Tripathi, Joint Secretary and Chief Vigilance Officer, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, as the Assistant Returning Officers.



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It's time to Czech into Czech again!

In light of the recent developments, on Thursday 12th May 2022 the CzechTourism India team along with the Embassy of the Czech Republic organized and hosted their first zoom webinar of 2022 titled 'It's time to Czech into Czech again!' to update the Indian travel trade fraternity about the re-opening of Czech Republic for tourism from India and the process for applying for a visa to the country. With over a 250+ participants from across India, the webinar was surely a hit!

The webinar started with a welcome note from Mr. Roman Masarik, Charge d'affaires, Embassy of the Czech Republic, New Delhi who spoke about the importance of tourism in Czech Republic as well as the strong and cherished ties between the people of India and Czech Republic. Ms. Nicole Machova, Head of Consular Section, Embassy of the Czech Republic in New Delhi addressed the trade and updated them on the latest developments and the procedure for applying for a Czech Republic visa.

This was followed by a destination presentation by Ms. Abigail Divecha – Account Manager from the CzechTourism team from Mumbai who highlighted all the unique aspects of the destination. Mr. Marek Kroutil, International marketing Manager (India) from Czech Republic updated the participants on the guidelines and travel protocols to enter the destination.

The webinar was concluded with a Q&A session where the delegates from the Embassy of the Czech Republic and CzechTourism authorities answered the queries raised by the travel trade fraternity on flights, procedures, SOPs, etc to visit Czech Republic from India and expressed their desire to visit the destination soon!

Rediscover Frankfurt



The first webinar provided a generic overview of Frankfurt, including some new developments. The second webinar went into further detail, a journey from Romerberg, the city's main square and ancient heart – that witnessed history unfolding from coronations to wars and numerous viewpoints like the Emperor's Cathedral, the Main Tower, or the Goethe Tower.

For art and museum lovers, Frankfurt boasts unique museums like the Natural History Museum with its 50 million-year-old dinosaurs fossils, the Stadel Museum housing artworks by some of Europe's classical and modern artists Rembrandt, Vermeer, and many more, or the Museum of Modern Art, refer to as a piece of cake due to its triangular structure. Frankfurt's diverse culinary experiences were

highlighted, including its 10 Michelin restaurants and places to enjoy Indian cuisine.

The Botanical Gardens is a great place to unwind, amid lush flora, fauna and lakes. Or simply find your lazy spot on the banks of the river Main and soak up sunshine with a glass of apple wine in the Sachsenhausen district. If luxury brands are on your shopping list, then head to Zeil, Germany's equivalent of 5th avenue. But there are also local shopping options to discover including the cute, quaint flea markets. Upcoming festivals to watch out for are the Opera Square Festival from 22 June-1 July and Museum Embankment Festival from 26-28 August. The Q&A at the end of the webinar reflected the enthusiasm and keen interest of the travel agents to get a deeper understanding of the City.

Ocean Conference : Save the Ocean, Protect the Future

The Conference, as well as the associated special events, call for the participation of States, civil society and partners from the business and associative sector, urging them to take an active role in achieving the goals of SDG 14 – Protect Marine Life – and to commit to the sustainability of marine resources.

At a critical and decisive moment for the Planet, Portugal is committed to highlighting the nexus between the Climate and the Ocean. It is necessary to protect the ocean to guarantee the future. In this context, the Conference takes place at an ideal time to stimulate new habits and a sustainable blue economy, based on innovative solutions based on science, on more environmentally friendly technologies and on the sustainable use of marine resources, protecting biodiversity and reducing pollution.

Portugal, the country that hosts the conference, is 18 times more ocean than land, being the third country with the largest EEZ (exclusive economic zone) in the European Union. Portuguese history and culture are marked by a deep relationship with the sea, which has also determined the open, available and innovative character of its people. The oceans have also been a reason for establishing commercial and economic initiatives and defining strategic relationships with other nations.

The Portuguese coastline is extensive: with over 2500 km between mainland and islands, it is punctuated by a variety



of natural conditions and an exceptional climate, which always provides unique and unforgettable experiences. It is precisely because of these assets that Portugal is one of the water sports destinations, especially surfing, which is a worldwide reference and can be practiced all year round. The variety and quality of surf spots, with emphasis on the “Canhão da Nazaré” (Nazaré North Canyon), where the underwater geology allows the formation of giant and perfect waves, and the Ericeira Surf Reserve, ranked first in Europe by the Save the Waves Coalition, generate great moments for water sports lovers.

Portuguese Natural Parks with an oceanic component are recognized all over the world, especially those on the east coast, such as Sintra-Cascais and Arrábida, and to the south, in the form of the labyrinthine channels of the beautiful Ria Formosa. They are certified destinations, with high natural value, where preservation comes first.

The ocean plays a critical role in protecting the health of our planet, providing oxygen and food,

functioning as the main climate regulator, absorbing excess carbon emissions and mitigating the impact of climate change. The resilience of marine ecosystems must be preserved, so ocean-based climate action, supported by political will and investment in technology, will allow the oceans to remain the main instrument in the fight against climate change.

Prior to the UN Oceans Conference (UNOC) taking place 27th June in Lisbon, the Portugal Embassy in New Delhi, partnering with the Observation Research Foundation- ORF (Indian Think Tank) and the UN, will host a “Blue Talk”, aiming to mobilize respective Indian politicians and stakeholders to participate at UNOC and affirm Portugal international relevance regarding the Oceans expertise. This will be a virtual event, on May 31st, at 3pm IST, covering two of the topics being discussed at UNOC in Lisbon: 1) “Manage, protect and restore marine and coastal ecosystems”, 2- “Develop interconnections between Sustainable Development Objective 14 and others towards the 2030 Agenda implementation”.



Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launches National Air Sports Policy

Over INR 8,000 crore annual revenue and 1,00,000 direct jobs to be generated. NASP will help India become the Global Capital for Air Sports: Shri Scindia

The Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022). NASP 2022 sets out the vision of making India one of the leading sports nations by 2030, by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in the country.

Air sports, as the names suggests, encompasses various sports activities involving the medium of

air. These include sports like air-racing, aerobatics, aero-modelling, hang gliding, paragliding, para motoring, and skydiving. India has a large geographical expanse, diverse topography, and fair-weather conditions which are conducive to air sports activities.

The NASP 2022, is a step in the direction of encouraging its large young population to adopt a culture for adventure sports and aviation. It has been drafted based

on the inputs received from policy makers, air sports practitioners and public at large and will ensure good quality of infrastructure, equipment, instructors and services.

The policy covers the following air sports in India: -

1. Aerobatics
2. Aero-modelling and model rocketry
3. Amateur-built and

experimental aircraft

4. Ballooning
5. Drones
6. Gliding and powered gliding
7. Hang gliding and powered hang gliding
8. Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping, and wing suits)
9. Paragliding and para motoring (including powered parachute trikes)
10. Powered aircraft (including ultra-light, micro light and light sports aircraft)
11. Rotorcraft (including autogyro)

Under the new policy, there will be a four-tier governance structure for air sports in India namely:

- Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body
- National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate
- Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate; and
- District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation said, “It is time for India to take its rightful place and become global capital of air sports. We want to create an environment of adventure, thrill and sports in the country. For this, we will leverage the energy of our youth below the age of 35 which accounts for 70 percent of India's population which is larger than the total population of Europe and three times that of USA. India has a huge geographical expanse, extending from the Himalayas and the mountainous regions to our states in

the northeast to the plains in central India to the coastal regions on the western-eastern coastline, and therefore you have the ability in this country to have the widest diversity of air sports”

The policy, according to the Minister, will serve to attract air sports enthusiasts from all over the world, especially those who live in areas where harsh winters prevent them from participating. He believes that air sports enthusiasts from Europe, North America, and Australia would flock to India to practice in the winters.

Speaking on the future of Air Sports in India, he said “From a small market size of around 5,000 odd air sports practitioners creating around Rs 80-100 crore of annual revenue in India, I feel we can

is known as the first woman to perform an accelerated free fall jump over the Antarctica from 10,000 feet, the youngest woman to jump over both the North and South Poles and the first woman jumper to perform it without trials. Ms. Rachel Thomas was the first Indian woman to skydive from 7,000 feet over the North Pole. Both Air sports enthusiasts expressed their gratitude for introducing National Air Sports Policy which will help India become an air sports hub by 2030.

Key Objectives of NASP 2022:-

- a. Promote an air sports culture in the country
- b. Enable adoption of international good practices in safety including but not limited to, air



target over Rs 8,000 – 10,000 crore annual revenue and generate over 1,00,000 direct jobs. The economic multiplier benefits in terms of travel, tourism, support services and local infrastructure development will be over three times.”

Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia also interacted with two Indian Air Sports Players – Ms. Shital Mahajan and Ms. Rachel Thomas. Both are sky drivers and Padma-Shri awardees. Ms. Shital Mahajan

sports infrastructure, equipment, operations, maintenance and training

- c. Develop a simple, stakeholder-friendly and effective governance structure
- d. Enhance participation and success of Indian sportspersons in global air sports events; and
- e. Promote design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment in India in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.



Emirates signs Memorandum with South African Tourism

Emirates and the South African Tourism have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly promote tourism and boost visitor arrivals and inbound traffic to South Africa from key markets across the Emirates network.

The MoU was signed on the side-lines of Arabian Travel Market by Badr Abbas, Emirates' Senior Vice President Commercial Operations for Africa, and The South Africa Tourism's Acting CEO Mr. Themba Khumalo. Also present at the signing ceremony was Adnan Kazim, Emirates Chief Commercial Officer, Minister of Tourism in South Africa, Lindiwe Sisulu and a senior government delegation from the South African Consulate in Dubai, His Excellency Consul General David Magabe and members of the South African Tourism Board.

Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer said: "For more

than 25 years we have invested in, and grown our operations to, South Africa. We're working hard to restore our services to pre-pandemic levels to help generate more opportunities for travelers from around the world to experience South Africa's unique natural experiences, world-renowned cuisine, and local culture. Emirates is well-placed to support the recovery of South Africa's tourism sector and help raise the profile of the destination again, offering convenient connections from over 130 destinations, and providing even more links for travelers who want to explore beyond our three South African gateways through our four airline partners."

Minister of Tourism in South Africa, Lindiwe Sisulu welcomed the signing of this MoU, citing the benefits it will yield for travel between South Africa and the Middle East. "We want to continue ensuring ease of access into South

Africa for Middle Eastern travelers and this collaboration will assist us in elevating our trade efforts; in terms of packaging the destination. We look forward to welcoming more travelers from the Middle East, to experience the various quality assured products and experiences that cater for this market, including; family friendly accommodation establishments and activities, a diverse offering of cuisine as well as wildlife and safari," says South African Minister of Tourism, Lindiwe Sisulu.

"The Middle East is a critical market for South Africa so this partnership will be very instrumental in ensuring ease of access to and from South Africa for travelers from this region. This will increase direct airlift, making room for more travelers, and as our tourism sector recovers we look forward to welcoming more visitors from the Middle East," says South African Tourism Acting CEO, Themba Khumalo.

Aimed at supporting South Africa's tourism recovery efforts, the partnership between Emirates and South African Tourism is part of the airline's longstanding commitment to grow the tourism market in the country. Under the MoU, Emirates will explore opportunities to promote South Africa and encourage travelers to experience the abundance of attractions that the country has to offer across its network of over 130 destinations. South Africa Tourism will also work closely with the airline to support travel trade partners and tour operators across the Emirates' network to develop and promote itineraries, introduce special packages and promotional giveaways, encourage incentives, among other marketing initiatives.



Jazeera Airways announces new mode of payment for Group Bookings

Jazeera Airways, the first privately owned airline in the Middle East informed that they have successfully implemented payment through the IATA Financial Gateway (IFG) as a new and additional Mode of payment for Group Bookings. IFG (BSP) payment is only available for Travel Agencies registered with Jazeera Airways.

IFG, is a system designed to facilitate and simplify the selling, reporting, and remitting procedures of IATA-accredited passenger sales agents, according to the IATA website. As a response to this decision, everyone has highly appreciated and mentioned that this mode of payment has indeed enhanced yet simplified the business experience for the travel partners. This new and additional Mode of Payment was introduced when the Airways decided that they will discontinue its availability on all GDSs (Galileo & Amadeus) about 15 months ago. The availability of the IFG (BSP) payment will be for Travel Agencies registered with Jazeera Airways only.

Type Certificate (TC)

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Union Minister of Civil Aviation, today awarded the first Type Certificate (TC) under Drone Rules, 2021 to IoTechWorld Avigation Pvt Ltd. The Gurugram based company was established in April 2017 and is one of India's leading manufacturers of kisan drones.

IoTech has received the Type Certificate in barely 34 days after submission of its online application on the DGCA's DigitalSky Platform on 11 May 2022. This is despite the fact that the Drone Rules, 2021, allow 60 days to Quality Council of India (QCI) or the Certification Bodies (CB) and 15 days to DGCA for issuing the Type Certificate (i.e 75 days in total), provided all the necessary documents and test reports are as per specifications.

The Drone Rules, 2021 were notified on 25 Aug 2021 and the 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (CSUAS)' for obtaining Type Certificate (TC) for drones was notified on 26 Jan 2022.

There are three globally-renowned Certification Bodies (CB) approved by QCI namely – TQ Cert, UL India and Bureau Veritas. Drone manufacturers are free to approach any Certification Body for testing their drone prototype.

The drone certification scheme of January 2022 was developed by the Quality Council of India in consultation with drone startups, industry, academia and defence experts. The Government played the role of that of a facilitator and problem solver.

Thailand's Nok Air Shall Soon Be Flying To India!

Nok Air, one of Thailand's most popular airline will launch non-stop services between

Thailand and India from Winter 2022. Nok Air, will connect India to Thailand, via its hub at Don Mueang International Airport (DMK) in Bangkok. The new routes will be operated by state-of-the-art Airbus 737-800 with 189 seats.

The new route launch will provide the most convenient connections from various Indian gateways to Bangkok, and beyond to over 20 destinations in Thailand including Phuket, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai etc.

"Welcoming incredible India to Amazing New Chapters of Thailand, with the current COVID situation improving daily, it is time that we look forward to expanding our markets towards the west, especially India. There are many areas there we have not yet tapped into to gain more revenue. As the airlines are slowly gaining their strength, it would be wiser for us if we are the first to take advantage of the situation and gain a foothold through this door. Indian market is booming and it would benefit us greatly if we are one of the few airlines that the Indian people choose to travel to Thailand with" – Mr. Wutthiphum Jurangkool CEO.

Vietjet eyes profit in 2022

Vietjet Aviation Joint Stock Company (HoSE: VJC) on May 28, 2022, held the 2022 Annual General Shareholders' Meeting to review its resilient business performance against the pandemic, the last five-year term of the Board of Directors, and to vote on the 2021 audited financial statements and the development plan for 2022.



The global aviation industry has faced the most unprecedented and challenging time in its long history. Vietjet, though, has emerged from the pandemic with its pioneering spirit, patience, and robust inner strength.

Vietjet was reported to gain a consolidated revenue of VND12,875 billion (approx. US\$555 million) in 2021 with the after-tax profit of VND80 billion (approx. US\$3.4 million). As of December 31, 2021, Vietjet's assets totaled nearly VND51,654 billion (approx. US\$2.22 billion). Its debt-to-equity ratio stayed at 0.9 while the liquidity ratio was at 1.6 - all were considered good indicators in the aviation industry.

In 2021, Vietjet has bounced back and expanded its flight network, offering everyone more opportunities to fly and joined hands with localities contributing to the country's economic recovery. The airline last year operated 40,000 flights, transporting more than 5.4 million passengers across over 50 domestic and international routes. It has also airlifted more than 63,000 tons of cargo, reporting a revenue growth of 200% YOY.

The airline has operated several flights to airlift doctors, police officers and soldiers to pandemic-stricken localities; delivered millions of Covid-19 vaccine doses and joined hands of strategic partners in Sovico Group to grant medical utilities including ambulances, breathing machines, testing kits, and hospital beds to many localities.

By the end of 2021, Vietjet has a fleet of 76 aircraft flying to 44 domestic and 95 international destinations.

To prepare for the post-pandemic recovery, Vietjet has signed a strategic partnership agreement with Airbus on the deliveries of aircraft orders and cooperation to develop the airline's wide-body fleet in addition to further support post-pandemic.

Vietjet has invested in a wide-body fleet of Airbus A330-300 following the low-cost model, beginning a new era of longer-range flight routes. Both sides recently have also reached an agreement to continue their order contract with long-term cooperation programs aiming to make Vietnam a regional and global aviation center.

Shareholders at the meeting have passed a resolution on business plan for 2022, in which Vietjet eyes to expand its fleet to 82 aircraft, operating 100,000 flights and transporting 18 million passengers.

The shareholders have also voted to pass a resolution to pay a 20% stock dividend from accumulated undistributed profits from the years before the pandemic.

The airline this year plans to earn more than VND22,300 billion (approx. US\$959 million) in air transport revenue and make a profit.

Vietjet, since its first flight in 2011, has pioneered in using e-tickets to replace paper ones and the implementation of e-commerce. In 2022, the airline is set to keep broadening its application of advanced technology, automation and innovation; bolstering the digital business sector in air transport, cargo and logistics; and growing and expanding air services including ground handling, training, financing, project investment and other services.

Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022

Drone Federation of India (DFI) will partner with the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) for the third edition of the Drone Festival of India - "Bharat Drone Mahotsav" from 27 May 2022 to 28 May 2022 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Mr. Smit Shah, President of the Drone Federation of India, said, "The Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 will be a one-of-a-kind extravagant two-day festival with participation from all verticals. We expect the displays of many firsts such as India's first Air Taxi, Unmanned Aircraft, and a lot more at the Drone Festival 2022 (DFI2022). This year's drone festival will feature over 200 leading drone manufacturers, 15+ keynote sessions, 2000+ visitors, 100+ service providers, flying demonstrations, drone expo,



drone component manufacturers, training schools, and regulators. This time, the visitors will also have the opportunity to fly drones and learn extensively about the immense potential of unmanned vehicles. The Drone Festival of India will play a significant role in this by promoting drone usage at the microlevel and encouraging drone culture in India."

On 18th May 2022, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of Civil Aviation, Government of India, Shri Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Shri Amber Dubey, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation had also visited the

event site for BharatDroneMahotsav to assess the preparations of the Mahotsav. Other senior officials and important stakeholders from MoCA and the Drone Federation of India were also in attendance.

The theme for this year's Drone Festival of India will be "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" to celebrate 75 years of the country's Independence and will mark the attendance from the officials from all state governments, dignitaries from the central government, representatives from the armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and industry leaders will attend the two-day festival. The technology and drone enthusiasts can book their tickets from the website of the DFI.

The first Drone Festival of India by the Drone Federation of India was organised on xx/yy/xxxx and since then it has been observed as one of the most significant events in the drone industry.

LOT Polish Airlines Adds Sarajevo and Pristina to Its Global Network

Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, is now served by LOT Polish Airlines five times a week. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday flights depart from Warsaw at 10:35h and arrive in Sarajevo less than two hours later at 12:25h (return flight starts at 13:05h and arrives at 15:00h). On Mondays and Thursdays, the departure from Warsaw is at 14:40h with scheduled arrival in Sarajevo at 16:30h (return flight starts at 17:10h and arrives 19:05h).

Passengers from India travelling with LOT Polish Airlines from Delhi enjoy fast and seamless connectivity to this new service. Departing from Delhi at 8:00h they arrive in Sarajevo

on the same day at 16:30h local time after a total travel time of 12 hours with a 90 minutes layover in Warsaw.

In addition, LOT Polish Airlines has started flying to Pristina, the capital of the Republic of Kosovo, four times a week. Flight LO-587 takes off from Warsaw every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:15h and arrives at its destination at 12:30h. On the return leg, LO-588 leaves Pristina at 13:20h, arriving in Warsaw at 15:50h with connectivity to its Delhi flights.

In addition to the new flights to Sarajevo and Pristina, LOT Polish Airlines has recently added further destinations to its global network, which are all served from its Star



Alliance hub in Warsaw: Mumbai (two flights per week), Baku/Azerbaijan (four flights per week) and Cairo/Egypt (five flights times per week). On July 1, flights to/from Stuttgart/Germany will be resumed. Stuttgart has been Mumbai's sister city for more than 50 years, so the new route will seamlessly connect them now via Warsaw.

Amit Ray, Director India, DACH Markets and Italy at LOT Polish Airlines: "We are observing strong demand from the Indian market, and we are happy to provide our passengers what they value most: great connectivity, reliability and competitive pricing."

A Bumper 2022

“We have seen growth in the first 45 days of the financial year whereby we are seen higher than 2019 numbers and are confident in working towards a bumper 2022 for all our stakeholders.” Said Vikas Ahluwalia, General Manager and National Head, Zone by The Park.

Q. With the hotel industry bouncing back to normal old days what are your strategies for upcoming quarters?

During the pandemic, our team worked hard to refocus, reimagine and realign our business by fine-tuning our operations. Now when the business is getting better we are focusing on driving operating efficiencies by implementing the benefits gained as part of our reimagined business strategy for driving revenues and getting better-operating margins at our existing hotels.

The key is to focus on the growth of topline and keep a strict watch on the bottom line.

Q. With tourism starting again how summer season tourism has acted as a boon for the hospitality industry as well as your brand?

We have seen growth in the first 45 days of the financial year whereby we are seen higher than 2019 numbers and are confident in working towards a bumper 2022 for all our stakeholders.

Q. What are your expansion plans for the future?

We plan to open 6 hotels in 2022 out of which Zone Palace by The Park Phalodi Jodhpur, a heritage hotel, is already

operational. We are happy to share that some of our exiting hotel owners have shown trust in the team and signed more hotels with us. We would be adding some very interesting leisure locations to our portfolio – Manali, Port Blair, Dimapur, Gopalpur and religious destinations – Amritsar and Yadagirigutta to our portfolio.

This growth is a mix of Zone by The Park and Zone Connect brands.

Q. How has your brand been able to establish itself amongst the eminent players of the hospitality industry?

Zone by The Park Hotels and Zone Connect are part of one of the oldest hospitality companies in India - ApeejaySurrendra Park Hotels Limited and the DNA of the organization is striving towards creating value for all stakeholders. We have de-risked our business by looking at multiple business segments and F&B plays a major role in our success.

Q. How has your brand performed in comparison to the pandemic phase and post-pandemic phase in the measurement of ADRs & ARRS?

We have seen substantial growth with most of our hotels over pre-pandemic numbers.





Let The Fun Begin on Koh Samui with Avani Chaweng

Avani Chaweng Samui Hotel & Beach Club, opening in early August 2022, is set to reignite the fun loving vibes in the island hot spot of Chaweng, Koh Samui, offering sun-drenched beaches and high-octane ambiance.

Introducing Koh Samui's first mid-century inspired hotel, the new build Avani Chaweng offers bold and fresh design that takes its cues from the halcyon days of the 1950s, referencing iconic American destinations such as Palm Beach and Miami.

The retro glam spot, situated along Chaweng Beach Road just steps from the surf, is strategically located to offer guests the island's best shopping, dining, and entertainment venues. Guests will benefit from direct access to SEEN Beach Club Samui, Koh Samui's hottest beach club. In addition, Samui International Airport is 10 minutes away by car.

Staying true to the 1950's retro-chic design inspiration, the architecture prioritises social hang

outs with a central large and inviting swimming pool and just three stories comprising 80 glamorous rooms and suites.

SOHO Hospitality – a renowned Thailand-based studio known for their standout restaurant concepts – designed the space using contemporary touchpoints to create spaces that are ideal for relaxing and socialising in style. The 1950's vibe is evoked via high contrast geometric patterns and curves, and abundant use of metallic and opulent fabrics.

The stylish accommodations amp up the ambience, with the 61 square meter Groovy Sea View Suite and 90 square meter Double Groovy Sea View Suite providing ample space to unwind with retro touches such as a vinyl record player and cocktail making stations.

Avani Chaweng boasts a swimming pool with spacious cabanas for relaxing or mingling, a social bar that doubles as a check-in area for guests who want to keep things casual and a 24-hour AvaniFit gym.

Guests at Avani Chaweng get priority access to SEEN Beach Club Samui's restaurant, bars and swimming pools, as well as its famous pool parties.

Opening rates for Avani Chaweng Samui Hotel & Beach Club start from USD 170 per room per night accommodating up to two guests and include daily breakfast with sparkling wine, a welcome drink at the social bar during check-in, priority access to SEEN Beach Club Samui's daily two-for-one Sinful Hour promotion, an arrival airport transfer, and 24-hour check-in.



Brij Hotels receives multiple recognitions from TripAdvisor

Brij Hotels, a collection of luxury bespoke hotels in India, has been recognised by TripAdvisor for its 2022 edition of Traveller's Choice Awards across multiple properties. One of the highest honours by TripAdvisor, the properties have received the recognition on the basis of multiple reviews and valuable opinions from discerning travellers around the world. The coveted awards recognise the very best of hospitality tourism establishments in terms of service, quality, customer satisfaction and more, across a range of other categories.

Redefining standards in experiential luxury travel, Brij Hotels seeks to welcome its guests with sheer humility to exquisite destinations, from remote to well known, across the country. In a stride to introduce the vibrant nature and culture of a place to every guest, the company endeavours to offer authentic hyperlocal experiences wherein one can truly immerse themselves in a destination, its native culture and have the opportunity to interact with the local communities.

The following four properties from the Brij Hotels' portfolio have received varied recognitions by TripAdvisor:

- Brij Rama Palace, Varanasi featured on Traveller's Choice Award 2022 under Top 25 Hotels – India category which places it amongst the top 1% worldwide.
- Brij Villa, Dalhousie featured on Traveller's Choice Award 2022 under Top 25 Guest Houses – India category which places it amongst the top 1% worldwide.
- Brij Lakshman Sagar, Pali and Brij Nest, Jaipur earned a Traveller's Choice Award 2022 for demonstrating a commitment to hospitality excellence, placing both the

properties in the top 10% of the hotels worldwide.

There is a dearth of hotels offering uber luxurious hyperlocal experiences and at Brij Hotels, we are always looking for ways to bring our guests closer to the community and the place travelled to. We are humbled, honoured and filled with gratitude to have our boutique properties listed amongst the 'best of the best' across the country. There is nothing more prestigious than having this recognition from TripAdvisor and it is the experiences, reviews and love from our guests that makes this our win, says Udit Kumar, co-founder of Brij Hotels.

Discover The Wonders of The Ocean With Four Seasons Maldives, Landaa Giravaru

HOSPITALITY 



The Four Seasons' Resort, Maldives, Landaa Giravaru is one of the world's most beautiful islands: a natural UNESCO Biosphere Reserve wilderness where iridescent blues, jungle greens and dazzling whites meet innovation, conservation and wellness.

S snorkel with mantas in aquarium-like waters, rehabilitate sea turtles in the resort's Marine Discovery Centre, experience world-class wellness at AyurMa and indulge in more-than-Michelin-starred dining at Blu Beach Club.

Making a holiday in this island paradise even more enticing are these two offers for an unforgettable marine adventure, applicable for guests opting for a minimum 4 night stay at the resort.

1) **MANTA WATCH OFFER:** Take an exhilarating speedboat trip to hotspots where you can snorkel with mass gatherings of manta rays and whale sharks (June



to November). Join the Maldives' only full-time manta ray research project. Swim with dolphins and turtles in the lagoon. Help turn previously empty reef flats into thriving coral ecosystems. The offer includes an exhilarating Manta-on-Call speedboat safari for two guests, a Dolphin cruise and marine biologist briefing for two guests. All this plus seaplane transfers and daily breakfast.

- **DIVE DISCOVERY OFFER:** Cross it off your bucket list. This deep dive into our marine wonderland includes return airport transfers, an orientation dive, six tank dives per couple, per stay, locals' insights into secret sites, and more. Includes seaplane transfers and daily breakfast. The hotel provides full equipment, consists of tank, weights, belt, fins, mask, snorkel, wetsuit, BCD, regulator with alternative air source, pressure gauge and depth gauge, so you can travel light!



Andaz - E - Lucknow

Barbeque Nation at Sayaji Hotel Kolhapur is hosting the 'Andaz - E - Lucknow' food festival starting from June 17th, 2022.

The 10-days food festival will showcase popular cuisines from the land of the nawabs with rich aromatic flavours and a myriad of mouthwatering cuisines. Treat your taste buds to an extravagant spread of delicacies across Vegetarian, Non-Vegetarian, and equally delicious desserts that are unique in their taste, inspired by the rich heritage of the Nawabi kitchen.

Andaz - E - Lucknow will feature an exhaustive choice of dishes including Zaffrani Murgh Tikka, Lal Mirch ka Bhuna Chooza, Nawabi Galouti Kebab among others.



Traditional Lucknowi cuisine employs the use of unique ingredients, dry fruits and exotic spices to give a distinct flavor to the dish. Barbeque Nation encapsulates the essence of Lucknow's theme which is complemented by its traditional décor, soulful music, and royal ambiance. Curated by the Executive Chef, Andaz - E - Lucknow takes you on a culinary journey that dates back to the 18th century and discover the flavor that once enticed the Nawabs.

A culinary journey by Indian Accent at Paasha

FOOD 

JW Marriott Pune brings Indian Accent - India's most celebrated restaurant and ranked no. 22 on Asia's 50 Best Restaurants, 2022 list - to the city.



The multi-award winning restaurant brings an exclusive culinary experience to Paasha with renowned Chef Manish Mehrotra - ranked number 1 Chef in India by Culinary Culture Co for 2022.

Indian Accent showcases inventive Indian cuisine by complementing the flavours and traditions of India with global ingredients and techniques. Manish is known to be one of the most exciting modern Indian chefs in the world today. His creativity showcases the unique amalgamation of the freshest local produce combining home style nostalgic tastes with unusual ingredients from across the world.

The immersive menu encompasses some of the signature dishes like Blue Cheese Naan; Tofu Medu Vada, Lime Leaf Gun Powder, Onion Chutney; Smoked Duck Shaami, Crispy Sevai, Barberry Chutney; Daulat ki Chaat and more, paired with world-class mixology by Paasha's expert mixologists at your favorite rooftop lounge.

Revel in an exhilarating experience like never before. Exclusive event, with limited seats available; reserve your seats now!



Explore The Only of Its Kind Coffee to Cocktail Destination

Magna, a rooftop café and bar introduced recently to the Thane club, is the first of its kind and the only one that serves an all-day menu in the day and transitions to bubble blaster cocktails, bar nibbles, a mezze station and more appetising food dishes by sunset.

Thereby differentiating themselves from other operators in the vicinity. The synergy between coffee and cocktails is now heating up. Providing a unique affair of one-of-a-kind espresso variants and cocktail recipes, Magna Café and Bar is a 120-seater coffee to cocktail all-day-café.

Situated at the Thane club, Magna Café and Bar is the fourth venture of the restaurateur Niketa Sharma. A place to grab your coffee and clink your glasses, Magna is a versatile café and bar with a chic, feminine, Instagram-able vibe along with a global palette for all taste buds. Expect multi-cuisine with all-ingredients-made-fresh-in-the-kitchen menu comprising of Asian, Mediterranean, Continental, and fusion Indian. Come day, the menu

is an all-day café carte with delicious and mouth-watering freakshakes featuring cassata, lotus biscoff, pink tiramisu, tiramisu cheesecake along with adaptable and innovative food choices like paneer tikka croissant sandwich for all taste palettes.

Magna's signature dishes from its multi-cuisine menu are the Nasi Gorang in Asian, Thecha and Pink Hummus in Lebanese, and a bao factory and kebab factory with a variety of selection, among

others. The signature cocktails include bottle smoked negroni and mocktails include infusions like Better Together, which is a mix of fruits like strawberries, peaches and kiwi served with ginger-ale. Magna also serves hot coffees like the Blue tea coffee and hot chocolate, all of which are prepared in-house by the chefs. To see what sets this destination apart from others, visit Magna café and bar to experience the magnificence first-hand.





Spice Up Your Evening with Exclusive Brazilian Grills

HYPE, the rooftop lounge at Shangri-La Bengaluru, gears up for a sizzling evening with the Brazilian Style Barbecue - Churrasco.



The limitless Barbecue Session is designed to savour with refreshing signature sips whilst surrounded by spectacular views of the Garden City.

Grilled and smouldered with earthy and fiery flavours, guests can

enjoy these popular Latin American bites from Frango (Chicken) to Porco (Pork) specials or Comida Do Mar (Seafood) and Cordeiro (Lamb) delights.

Catch up with friends or loved ones over Spiced-orange Lamb

Racks, Smoked Chorizo (Cured Pork Sausages), Juicy Pork Ribs & Belly, Cajun-spiced Prawns, Ancho Chili Grilled Chicken, Rocoto Chilli and Lime Drumsticks, Corn on the Cob, Cinnamon Roasted Pineapple and Roasted Cottage Cheese.

The Beautiful and Bountiful Kerala

God's own country is the beautiful and mesmerizing state of Kerala.

Kerala is a very well known destination for locals as well as tourists from outside the country. Kerala is considered to be a paradise on Earth. The rate of tourism in Kerala is increasing and thousands of tourists visit it all around the year. The state is along the coast of India which makes it rich in greenery and vegetation. Rich culture and unique traditions are some of the reasons why Kerala has been able to attract tourists from across the globe for multiple years.

The scenic beauty and other attractions have never led Kerala Tourism to look back on its growth. Kerala is known for its dense forests along the mountain ranges comprising the Western Ghats

and covering tropical evergreen, deciduous and semi-deciduous jungles that are home to some rare and exotic plant and wildlife species. These hill stations and high range zones are the best places to visit for nature and wildlife enthusiasts.

The high and rugged Western Ghats endow the state with several Hill stations, which have a high rate of tourist influx during the summer months. On these hill slopes are cultivated expansive stretches of coffee, tea, rubber and fragrant spices such as cardamom, pepper and clove. Kerala tourism is home to and promotes a long chain of magnificent hill stations that are home to exotic plants and wildlife. Kerala offers the most enchanting

experience of nature and all its scenic beauty.

There are various places to visit in Kerala like Wayanad, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Marari and many more.

Wayanad is another beautiful place you can visit in north Kerala. Along the northern hills of Kerala is the beautiful district of Wayanad. This area is famous for its large amount of camping and trekking trails with its breathtaking waterfalls, magnificent caves, beautiful bird-watching sites, exotic flora, fauna and an overall plethora of magnificent sights. Wayanad has become a tourist favourite over the years. People are especially delighted by the different exotic



in Wayanad that attracts various tourists from all around the world. Apart from these magnificent falls, Wayanad brings you the experience of the stunning beauty of the Karapuzha Dam, Pookode & Karlad Lake and many more such attractions. If you are someone who is an adventure seeker, then the Cheengari Rock Adventure Center is the best and a must visit place for you. Another great and alluring place in Wayanad is the magnificent Edakkal Caves. The caves are two natural rock formations which are believed to have been formed by a large split in a huge rock and the caves have beautiful carvings on the inside, that maybe you could decipher the meanings too?

Kozhikode will forever hold a special place in the history of India. This was the coast on which Vasco da Gama arrived which gave birth to the famous spice route. The city still has a historic and rustic charm to it, which attracts flocks of tourists every year. There are various places that

Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary to watch the bird sanctuary which is home to over 100 species of native birds and over 60 species of migratory birds. Then enjoy the breathtaking view and enjoy a great picnic along with a dip in Thusharagiri Fall the two streams originate from the Western Ghats and meet at this point to create the Chalipuzzha River. One can add a great end to the day which is a mesmerizing and beautiful sunset at the Kozhikode beach. The beach is a must-visit on the itinerary of every individual who visits this city. Though the water may not be fit for swimming, the stunning view of the Arabian sea which is offered by the lighthouses more than covers up for the shortcomings of the muddy water.

While visiting the state of the Kerala how can one simply miss out on the capital city of **Thiruvananthapuram**. This city is the perfect blend of the strongly rooted heritage and the nostalgia of the colonial legacy. The city is built out of the collaboration of seven hills. Trivandrum is a metropolitan city with a quaint urban charm to it and is filled with plenty of architectural and historical places for one to visit. While visiting the city of Thiruvananthapuram one of the must-visit places is the Kuthiramalika Palace Museum which is one of the rarest specimens of workmanship. It was built by Maharaja Swathi Balarama Varma and this palace displays and houses the valuable collections of the royal family. The Priyadarshini Space Planetarium is another great place to visit for all those who might have a liking for space or the sciences or just someone who is curious. It is ranked as one of the most versatile planetariums in India. The planetarium is home to some



products the place has to offer which include spices, coffee, tea, bamboo products, honey and various herbal plants available here. Kanthanpara Waterfalls is one of the hotspots

one can visit while in Kozhikode. One can begin the day by visiting the Thalikkunu Shiva temple which is one of the oldest temples in South India. Then carry on to visit the

extremely advanced equipment which allows one to see all the constituents of the universe. It also sheds some light on the vast knowledge about Earth and the enormous universe that we all are a part of. The Thiruvananthapuram Zoo is also a great place to be, it is one of the oldest zoos in the country. It was originally created for the purposes of recreation, but over the course of time has become a conservation centre for the wildlife. If you are looking for a one of a kind place to visit the Magic Planet is the place to be. It is the planet's first magic house which is entirely a new concept with a themed park completely based on the concept of magic which is located in Thiruvananthapuram. One should visit the themed park and enjoy the rides and amusements the place has to offer. The city is a great place to spend a few days in but is also a great passing stop to the nearby beautiful beach town of Kovalam.

Kovalam is a beach town which overlooks the Arabian Sea and is located along the borders of Thiruvananthapuram. There is a lot of incredible beauty that lies within the city of Kovalam. One of the many reasons why this city is considered a place to be visited and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India is because of its beautiful beaches. Samudra beach is a Jewel in the already heavily ornate crown of beaches in Kovalam. The beach is one of the best places to visit while you are in Kovalam, it is separated from the other beaches and offers peace and serenity. Amidst the thick vegetation of exotic flora and friendly fauna, is the freshwater lake called Vellayani Lake. The lake has an interesting story to tell which can be explored while you are around the lake. The

Valiyathura Pier is a must-visit place in Kovalam and is one of the most famous places to visit since 1950. The Pier was initially used for the purpose of cargo transportation and fishermen but over the years it has become a popular spot for people to visit. A photographer's paradise Edakallu has shimmering beaches and vivid waters which will stimulate you. The place is known for its sunsets and is the best place for nature lovers to experience natural beauty.

Next on our list of places to visit while in the beautiful and bountiful state of Kerala is Kollam. Kollam is the gateway to the magnificent backwaters of Kerala. This city boasts of various different natural beauties such as seas, lakes, mountains, rivers, forests and multiple vast green fields. The city is also home to some incredible relics from the past and a number of temples which have been built in the traditional architectural style. One has to check out the lighthouse while visiting Kollam at the Thangasseri. You can witness the setting of the sun and the rising of the moon simultaneously, which gives you a breathtaking view of the sea. The Thevally Palace is situated on the banks of the mesmerising Ashtamudi Lake. The palace is also proof of the colonial style of architecture.

Alappuzha is a city in southern Kerala and is located on the Laccadive Sea. The city of Alappuzha is also known as the Venice of the East. The city is extremely beautiful, elegant and filled with greenery. You can walk in any direction in this city and end up near beaches or the famous backwaters of Kerala. So, wander around in this small and chaotic city, visit the city centre, bus stand and many such quaint places. The city is connected with the



help of a grid of canals. Alappuzha is well known for its houseboats, this charming city is the hub of the backwaters of Kerala and is home to a widespread network of backwaters and thousands of houseboats. The view of the backwaters and the beaches lined with coconut trees can be enjoyed from the houseboats. Alappuzha is the perfect place to unwind and relax amidst its laidback canals and lush greenery. But, this city has a lot more to offer than just its houseboats, canals and backwaters. You can visit the Pandavan Rock which is an amalgamation of caves. These breathtaking caves and their glorious carvings along with the natural beauty surrounding the site is pure bliss. You could also witness the Nehru trophy snake boat race, which is held in memory of Jawaharlal Nehru. This race is also called the Vallam Kali, it is



something you have never seen before. This race is held in the month of August every year, be sure to catch it if you visit the city around that period. If you want to feel like you have been transported to another world, a must-visit for you is the Revi Karunakaran Museum. This museum is home to some beautiful paintings and fascinating artifacts. It also houses a huge collection of the Tanjore paintings and also has a whole room dedicated to the gorgeous marble and crystal installations. The city of Alappuzha in Kerala is one of the very few places in the world where you can buy your groceries out of boats. You can visit the floating market and have a new and unique shopping experience.

The last stop on our list of places to visit while in Kerala is the beautiful beach of Marari. Marari is one of the cleanest beaches

along the coasts of Kerala and is the perfect location for holidaying with friends and family. The beach is filled with coconut palms and golden glistening sands. The serenity and tranquillity of this beach take beach lovers on a trip back in time. The slow paced and calm life led by the locals around this beach makes vacationing near the Marari beach a reviving and extremely relaxing experience. The Marari beach is a peaceful and scenic place to relax and chill out. If you happen to visit the Marari beach, you have to soak in and enjoy the serenity of the deserted sandy beaches. To make your trip even more interesting, you can roam around the beach as there are plenty of places to see and visit where you can spend some quality time with your friends, family or loved ones. Adventure freaks and thrillseekers can also choose some adventurous activities like sea

surfing, parasailing, water skiing, and deep sea fishing. The Marari beach is a peaceful place in the beautiful state of Kerala where you can relax and rejuvenate yourself. If you are looking for serenity on the deserted sandy beaches, then the beach is a must-visit on your list. Along with this, there are many more places that you can visit around the beach. You can take a short trip all around the area that includes visiting the traditional coir-making units or bird watching at the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, taking a trip along the Kerala backwater canals, and many more such fantastic activities and sights to see.

Though this may be the end to our list of places to visit in the beautiful state of Kerala there are many more places that one can explore around the bountiful state. Be sure to make a list of places and visit the fantabulous state of Kerala.

What role do you believe that tourism activities play in contributing to a more sustainable mobility?

A major portion of tourism transportation currently depends greatly on fossil fuels, which are a source of CO2 emissions. Distances in trips and the choice of transportation are key elements that can contribute towards a more sustainable mobility.

We as tourists can also exercise our influence, with our actions, to achieve more sustainable mobility, using more sustainable transportation methods and travelling shorter distances.

Summarising, all agents participating in the tourism industry, destinations, companies and tourists, bear a responsibility to contribute towards sustainable mobility.

When talking about tourism and sustainability, much reference is made to traveller transportation but, specifically, what are technology and tourism innovation contributing to this effort?

Technology has allowed for new transportation methods to destinations, which are essential to mobility becoming more sustainable.

We must also point out that innovation will contribute to airlines reducing their emissions, while other transportation such as cruise liners will reduce their environmental footprint. Technology and innovation are leverage that leads to change.

SEGITTUR has projects on smart destinations, what influence do they have on a more sustainable activity? Do they influence mobility directly or indirectly?

SEGITTUR works with tourism destinations in their conversion to smart tourism destinations, where one of the main lines is a commitment to sustainability. Within sustainability, we are also working towards mobility being sustainable, alternative transport being used and reduced CO2 emissions.

More public-private alliances are being proposed at Global Mobility Call, how can they contribute more for the tourism sector?

At SEGITTUR we

are proponents of public-private collaboration in all areas of tourism activity. There should be more public policies designed and developed by the government agencies and destination managers, that promote a more sustainable tourism model, where mobility is one of the key elements, because it is one of the areas of activity that generates the most CO2 emissions.

Global Mobility Call is a multi-industry event that covers all activities pertaining to mobility, what opportunities does SEGITTUR see in joining this sustainable transformation process?

Sustainable mobility, as seen in the sustainability pillar within the model of smart tourism destinations, is not an opportunity but a necessity, because we must all become aware that this transformation is essential and will benefit destinations, citizens and tourists.



Sustainability: Not an Opportunity but a Necessity

Enrique Martínez Marín, president of Segittur Shared about the importance of the sustainability axis within the smart destinations model as a necessity for the benefit of destinations, citizens and tourists.



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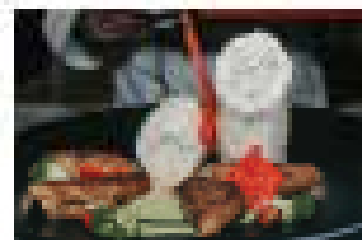
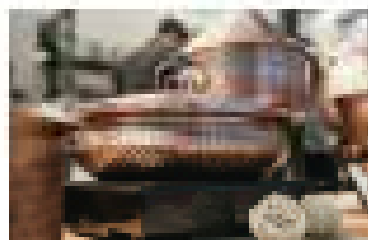
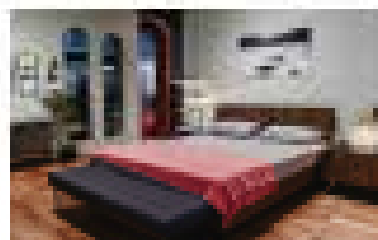


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5D4N Bali Safari

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based on 4 hotel

(1Night at Lovina Beach + 3Night at South Bali)

Inclusion :

- Wild Dolphin Searching at Lovina Beach, 2 full day tours
- Indian Cuisine Lunch or Dinner where available and specified in the program
- Free 1 x 60mins massage or set meal at certain hotel



Borobudur Temple, Jogja

Bali - Jogja 5D4N Discovery USD 308

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Jogja
based on 4 hotel



Gedung Sate, Bandung

Bali - Bandung 5D4N Discovery USD 338

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Bandung
based on 4 hotel



Sand Island, Lombok

Bali - Lombok 5D4N Discovery USD 328

2 Night at Bali + 2 Night at Lombok
based on 4 hotel

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