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Editor's LETTER

Dear Readers,

Summer is at its peak, but the usual excitement around travel appears a little subdued this year. With travellers becoming more cautious, conscious and selective, the industry is witnessing a clear shift towards holidays that offer safety, comfort, value, and memorable experiences in one seamless package. High on the chart of responsible and experiential travel is cruise tourism, which is fast gaining momentum in India.

For our BOTT June Cruise Special Issue, we reached out to around 10 leading cruise companies and cruise representation companies in India to understand how the segment is evolving, what Indian travellers are seeking, and how the trade can better tap into this growing opportunity. The insights we received point to a strong and encouraging trend — cruising is no longer seen as a niche or luxury-only holiday. It is becoming a preferred choice for families, honeymooners, senior travellers, MICE groups, wedding planners and experience-seeking Indians.

From fly-cruise holidays in Singapore and Asia to expedition cruising, river journeys, luxury voyages, multi-generational vacations and culturally immersive itineraries, the cruise product has expanded significantly. Companies such as StarDream Cruises, Pandaw Cruises and several leading cruise representatives are focusing on India-friendly offerings, trade education, flexible itineraries, vegetarian and Jain meal options, celebration-led travel, and deeper partnerships with agents.

This issue also captures how cruise brands are reimagining onboard entertainment, shore excursions, sustainability, guest comfort and destination discovery. For India, the opportunity is immense — but it needs stronger awareness, better selling skills, and greater confidence among both agents and travellers.

As we present this special issue, our objective is simple: to bring cruise tourism closer to the Indian travel trade and highlight its potential as one of the most exciting growth verticals in outbound and experiential travel.

Happy Reading!

Warm regards,

Priyanka Saxena Ray
Editor, BOTT India

10th ANNIVERSARY Dream Cruises

DREAM CRUISES

7.00 AM

Sunrise wow from balcony room

11.00 AM

Pool-side wow

Har Hour
Ek Naya
Wow.

2.00 PM

Delightful multi-cuisine wow

5.00 PM

Crazy Foam-party wow

9.00 PM

Trust fall wow at Zodiac Theatre

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SHORT NEWS

TBO TEK POSTS STRONG Q4, REVENUE SURGES 83%

Global travel distribution platform TBO Tek has reported a robust financial performance for Q4 and FY2026, with revenue rising 83 per cent year-on-year and adjusted EBITDA growing 40 per cent YoY. The company announced its audited financial results, reflecting sustained growth momentum across its travel distribution business. TBO Tek said the strong quarterly performance underscores rising demand, expanding market presence and the strength of its technology-driven travel ecosystem.

AIR INDIA EXPRESS LAUNCHES NEW BRAND CAMPAIGN

Air India Express has launched its new brand campaign, 'Xpress Wali Baat Hai', featuring actor Pankaj Tripathi. Through a series of short films, the campaign highlights the airline's signature experience, including comfortable seating, 'Gourmair' hot meals, Indian hospitality and a network of 500 daily flights across South, Southeast and West Asia. In its first week, the campaign recorded over 200 million reach and more than 1 billion views.

YAS ISLAND TO WELCOME SPHERE ABU DHABI

Yas Island has been selected as the location for Sphere Abu Dhabi; a landmark immersive entertainment venue being developed by DCT Abu Dhabi and Sphere Entertainment Co. With a construction phase cost of USD 1.7 billion, the project is expected to be completed by end-2029. The venue will host immersive productions, concert residencies, sporting events, conferences and brand experiences, while its Exosphere will showcase Emirati culture through large-scale visual storytelling.

ANTARA CRUISES LAUNCHES 'THE SILENT RIVER ESCAPE' IN ODISHA

Antara Cruises has launched "The Silent River Escape," a 2 Nights/3 Days private all-inclusive itinerary aboard Antara Catamarans through Bhitarkanika, Odisha. Operating on the Gupti–Dhamra–Kanika Island–Gupti route, the journey offers two suites, personalised service by a five-member crew, curated shore excursions, temple visits, wildlife talks and customised cuisine. Designed for up to six guests per catamaran, the experience combines luxury, ecology, culture and serene river cruising.

SARA CONSULTING EXPANDS FINLAND PORTFOLIO WITH PREMIUM ARCTIC STAYS

Sara Consulting Services has expanded its portfolio with the addition of Halo Igloos Rovaniemi, Arcora Boutique Hotel & Villas, and Wilderness Hotels in Finland. Strengthening its focus on premium, experiential and nature-led travel for the Indian market, the new partnerships showcase Finnish Lapland's Arctic charm through glass-roofed igloos, boutique villas, wellness-led stays, Sámi culture and year-round adventures, offering travellers immersive experiences amid pristine landscapes and Northern Lights.

ECO HOTELS ENTERS AYODHYA'S SPIRITUAL TOURISM MARKET

Eco Hotels and Resorts has launched a new hotel in Ayodhya, marking its expansion into India's fast-growing spiritual tourism segment. Located 5 km from Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, the property offers 33 rooms, a top-floor restaurant, lawn and swimming pool. Its restaurant "Sahar—Back to the Roots" serves 'satvik' food without onion and garlic, along with gluten-free breakfast options, while following sustainable hospitality practices.

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Pandaw's small-ship expeditions explore the Kerala Backwaters, Brahmaputra, and Hooghly connecting travelers with local culture, history, and lesser-visited regions of India

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ARABIAN TRAVEL MARKET 2026 RESCHEDULED TO SEPTEMBER 14–17 IN DUBAI

Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2026 has been rescheduled to September 14–17, 2026, at Dubai World Trade Centre, giving global travel stakeholders fresh dates to plan their participation. The four-day event will continue to bring together tourism boards, destinations, airlines, hotels and travel technology players, reinforcing Dubai's position as a leading hub for international tourism dialogue, business networking and market opportunities across the Middle East and beyond.

ITC HOTELS SIGNS 90-KEY FORTUNE SELECT IN GUWAHATI

ITC Hotels Limited has announced the signing of a 90-room Fortune Select in Guwahati, Assam, strengthening its presence in India's high-growth North-East market. Scheduled to open in April 2028, the hotel will offer well-appointed rooms, all-day dining, banquet and conferencing facilities. Guwahati, a key gateway for commerce and tourism, attracts travellers visiting Kamakhya Temple, Kaziranga National Park, Hajo and Madan Kamdev, the 10th-century archaeological site known as the "Khajuraho of the North-East."

IHG SIGNS INTERCONTINENTAL RESORT JAIPUR ACHROL

IHG Hotels & Resorts has signed a management agreement with Makson India Hospitality Pvt Ltd. for InterContinental Resort Jaipur Achrol. Scheduled to open in early 2030, the 225-key luxury resort will include 36 villas and 189 guest rooms. Spread across 16 acres on Delhi–Jaipur Road, the resort will strengthen IHG's luxury portfolio and mark the second InterContinental hotel in the Jaipur market.

SAROVAR HOTELS INAUGURATES FIRST HOTEL IN ODISHA

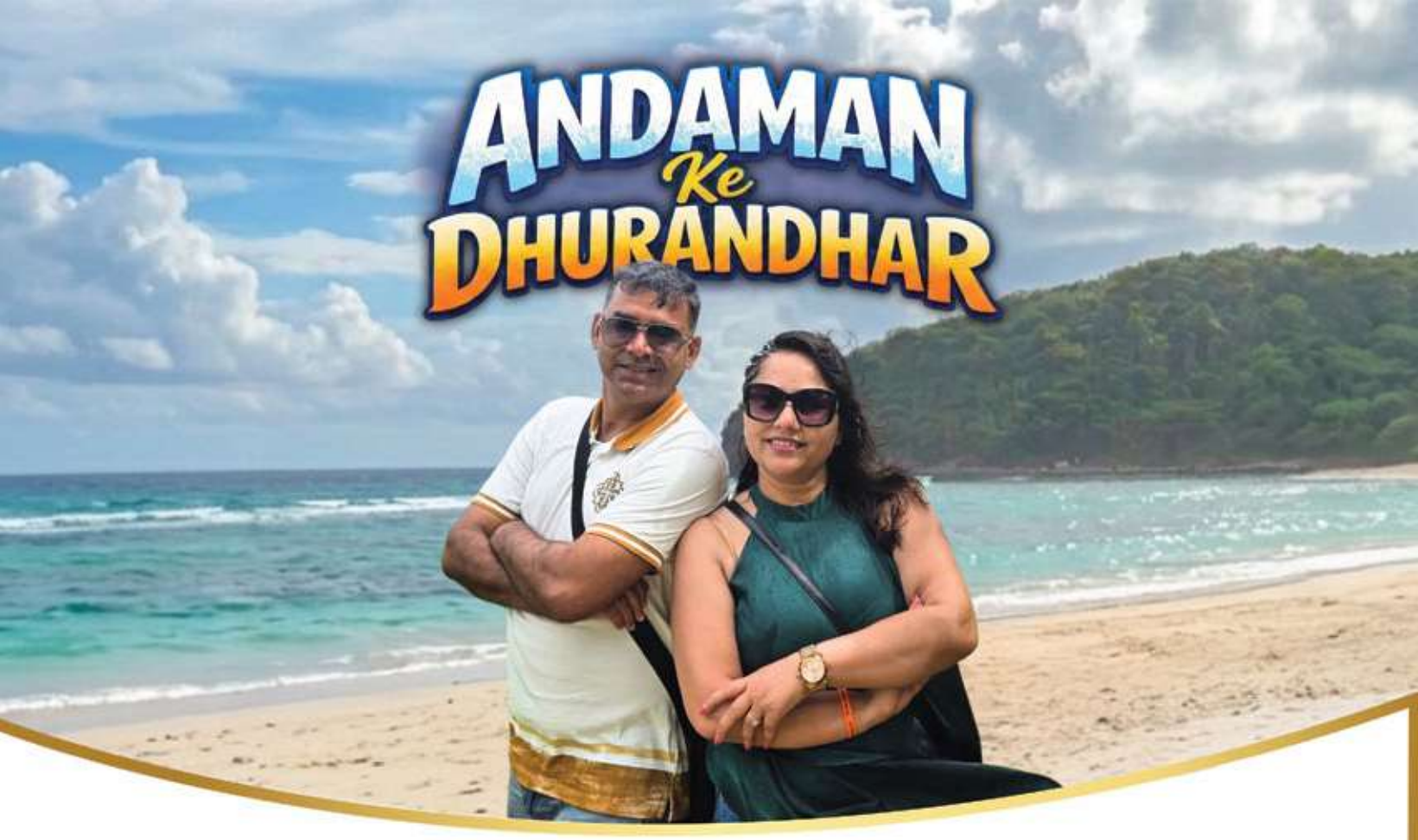
Sarovar Hotels, in partnership with Prachi Resorts, has inaugurated Prachi Sarovar Premiere Bhubaneswar, marking its first hotel in Odisha. Located in the heart of Bhubaneswar, the upscale property features 78 rooms and suites, Flavours all-day dining restaurant, Mahua indoor bar, swimming pool, landscaped lawns and banqueting facilities. Spread across 2.5 acres, the hotel is designed for business, leisure, weddings, corporate events and MICE gatherings.

SUMMIT HOTELS & RESORTS ENTERS ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Summit Hotels & Resorts has expanded into Arunachal Pradesh with Rungkhung Village Resort in Dirang under The Signature Collection. Located in Dirang Valley and overlooking the Kameng River, the boutique retreat offers Premium View Rooms and Junior Suites with private balconies, regional dining, landscaped gardens, bonfire spaces and curated local experiences. It has been designed with Arunachali character and modern comfort.

INDIA TOPS WASHINGTON, DC VISITOR SPEND

India emerged as Washington, DC's top spending international market in 2025 and its second-largest market by international visitor volume. Indian travellers generated around $342.7 million in visitor spending, surpassing the United Kingdom. Washington, DC welcomed over 27.2 million visitors in 2025, generating $11.9 billion in visitor spending, $2.4 billion in tax revenue and supporting 114,013 jobs across the city's tourism economy.



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STIC Group

charts India's shift towards experiential cruising

In an exclusive conversation, **Isha Goyal**, CEO, STIC Travel Group, shares how Indian travellers are embracing expedition cruises, small-ship luxury, river cruising and destination-led itineraries, while also highlighting the need for agents to move beyond price-led selling and become informed cruise advisors.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

How has the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolved over the past year, and which cruise segments are seeing the strongest demand?

The Indian cruise traveller continues to evolve quite rapidly with each season. A few years ago, the cruise conversation was largely about first-time cruisers, mega-ships and targeted segments that were seen as best suited for a cruise. Today, we're seeing that segmentation expand to include younger and more diverse audiences. In addition to the massive surge in first-time cruisers on megaships, there is also a growing repeat cruiser base that is actively seeking out more immersive, less mainstream experiences. Expedition cruising, small-ship luxury, and destination-led itineraries are gaining real ground. Travellers are asking more specific questions — about the ship, the experience on board, the quality of shore excursions. The aspiration has shifted from "I want to try a cruise" to "I want the right cruise". While India has always been seen as a niche market for cruising, the end customer is c atching up fast on global trends pushing the trade to develop genuine product knowledge rather than just selling on price.

> Across our portfolio, customers are choosing brand experiences that offer genuine immersion — where the destination drives the itinerary rather than the ship being the destination. Japan, the Galápagos, and the Norwegian fjords are recurring requests alongside French Polynesia and the Amazon. We're also seeing growing curiosity around river cruising.

STIC represents a diverse portfolio of cruise brands. Which products or destinations are gaining maximum traction from India in 2026?

While destination choices continue to expand, expedition and small-ship luxury have certainly outperformed expectations in recent times. The interest in the polar regions is stronger than ever before— both Arctic and Antarctic — as well as Northern Europe and more immersive Mediterranean itineraries for premium travellers.

Across our portfolio, customers are choosing brand experiences that offer genuine immersion — where the destination drives the itinerary rather than the ship being the destination. Japan, the Galápagos, and the Norwegian fjords are recurring requests alongside French Polynesia and the Amazon. We're also seeing growing curiosity around river cruising, particularly among travellers who've already done ocean cruising and are looking for something more intimate.

How are geopolitical unrest, rising airfares and fuel costs impacting outbound cruise bookings from India?

Geopolitical uncertainty, particularly anything affecting the Middle East or European travel corridors created strong short-term hesitation, though we've consistently seen demand recover once the immediate anxiety settles. The luxury travellers who are committed to cruising are largely absorbing these costs, however we're certainly losing the more price-sensitive, first-time considerers. As some travellers reconsider itineraries that require long-haul connections, agents are having to work harder to justify the total trip value and their own service fees.

In light of the Prime Minister's recent appeal on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, what is your message to the outbound travel trade?

The Prime Minister's appeal was made in a specific context of making responsible choices towards the greater good of the country and the economy. Travel that is purposeful — whether for leisure, education, business, or personal enrichment — has never been unnecessary. India's outbound travel industry supports hundreds of thousands of livelihoods, builds cultural bridges, and contributes meaningfully to the economy. Our message to the trade is to stay focused, stay professional, and continue helping travellers make informed, considered choices.

How can travel agents package cruise holidays more smartly to keep them attractive despite high airfares?

The most effective way agents can have an impact and be more effective is to move from selling a cruise to selling a journey. When the airfare is visible and significant, the answer isn't to hide it — it's to build an inimitable experience around it. Agents who understand their clients well enough to build in layers to the experience and come across as advisors and curators rather than agents are consistently outperforming those selling on price alone. The other practical lever is early booking — guiding clients to plan ahead and contribute towards elongating the booking timeline will help build long term trust and generate repeat business.

What new trade initiatives or training programmes is STIC planning to help agents sell cruises more effectively?

Our priority is to focus on depth over volume when it comes to trade engagement. Rather than broad awareness programmes, we're investing in building a smaller group of genuinely knowledgeable cruise specialists — agents and consultants who can have an informed conversation about expedition cruising, about the difference between small-ship and large-ship experiences, about what makes one itinerary better than another for a specific client. We're developing dedicated training modules for our cruise portfolio. The goal is to raise the quality of cruise selling in India, not just the quantity. BOTT

Yves Van Kerrebroeck, Commercial Director, Pandaw Cruises

Pandaw Cruises finds global appeal in India's river stories

Yves Van Kerrebroeck, Commercial Director, Pandaw Cruises, says India's river cruise segment is gaining strong traction among international travellers seeking immersive, culture-rich holidays. He highlights the growing popularity of the Brahmaputra and Kerala Backwaters itineraries, driven by slow travel, community-led experiences and deeper destination engagement.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

How do you see India's river cruise segment evolving, especially among international travellers looking for experiential holidays?

What makes India stand out is how much variety you can experience within a single journey. For example, on our Brahmaputra expedition, one day guests are exploring Assamese villages and temples, the next you are driving through national parks spotting wildlife and cruising around the river's sand banks. That mix of culture, nature, history, and local life has made India our most popular destination for the Pandaw Members Club this past season, particularly among travellers looking for something more personal than a traditional tour.

Which routes are currently seeing the strongest interest, and what makes them stand out for today's discerning traveller?

At the moment, the Kerala Backwaters is proving to be our strongest performer. We launched the route at the end of 2025 aboard a small 10-cabin ship and demand quickly led to the construction of a second vessel, the RV Kerala Pandaw, arriving in early 2027. The popularity of the itinerary reflects the industry's wider shift towards slow travel. Guests are increasingly looking for journeys that allow them to spend more time connecting with the destination rather than constantly moving between stops. Kerala lends itself naturally to that style of travel, combining Fort Kochi's colonial history and cultural influences with quieter moments.

How important is community-led and destination-sensitive tourism in shaping the brand's India product?

Community-led tourism has always been central to how Pandaw designs its itineraries because we believe a travel experience is shaped just as much by the people as the destinations themselves. Many of our crew members come from the regions we sail through, which naturally brings more local knowledge and storytelling onboard. For example, during the development of the Kerala itinerary our Purser Arun Srinivas, who is originally from Kerala, played an important role in identifying destination-specific experiences for guests to experience, such as Kathakali performances.

What support or infrastructure improvements would help river cruising achieve its full potential, and what are Pandaw's expansion plans for the India market in the coming years?

From Pandaw's perspective, we're already seeing strong demand for India and are continuing to expand our presence there. In addition to adding a second ship to our Kerala Backwaters expedition in early 2027, we're also exploring shorter three-night and four-night itineraries across some of our most popular routes. These sailings are designed to appeal to travellers looking for easier getaway-style experiences while still offering the same immersive connection to local culture and communities that defines river cruising in India. BOTT

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StarDream Cruises

strengthens focus on India's experience-led cruise market

Naresh Rawal, Senior Vice President – Sales (India & Middle East), StarDream Cruises, says the Indian outbound cruise traveller is becoming increasingly experience-driven, with families, celebration groups and multi-generational travellers seeking convenient, value-rich holidays.

Naresh Rawal, Senior Vice President – Sales (India & Middle East), StarDream Cruises

Priyanka Saxena Ray

How is the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolving, and which cruise products or destinations are currently seeing the strongest demand from India?

The Indian outbound cruise traveller is increasingly experience-driven, with strong growth from families, celebration groups and multi-generational travel seeking convenient, value-rich holidays. For StarDream Cruises, we are seeing the strongest demand for fly-cruise products, particularly to Singapore to sail on Genting Dream, which offers a seamless short getaway combining multiple destinations with strong onboard experiences. We are also gradually seeing growing interest in other regional homeports such as Hong Kong as connectivity and awareness increase.

In light of the current geopolitical unrest, rising airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, how do you see outbound cruise demand being impacted?

While geopolitical uncertainty, rising airfares and evolving travel advisories can influence travel sentiment, cruising remains resilient as a bundled and transparent holiday experience covering accommodation, dining, entertainment and multiple destinations. For Indian travellers, fly-cruise options like Singapore are particularly attractive as they simplify planning and provide clearer overall cost visibility, helping maintain strong value perception even in a dynamic travel environment.

How is your organisation working with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell for Indian travellers?

We work closely with the travel trade in India as a key growth partner, focusing on product education, engagement and familiarisation to strengthen understanding of StarDream's fly-cruise offerings. We also place strong emphasis on tailoring the onboard experience to Indian guests, including vegetarian and Jain meal options, along with culturally familiar service touches. This, combined with our Singapore fly-cruise product on Genting Dream and growing awareness of other homeports such as Hong Kong, helps ensure cruising is both easy to sell and highly relevant for Indian travellers seeking experiential holidays. BOTT

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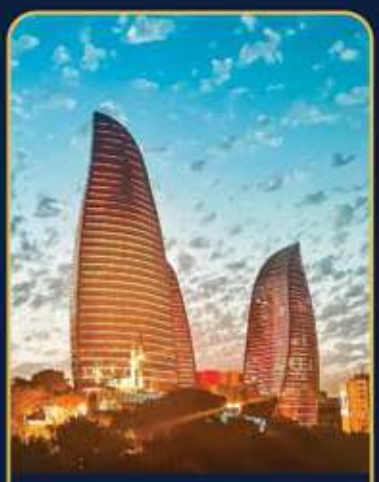

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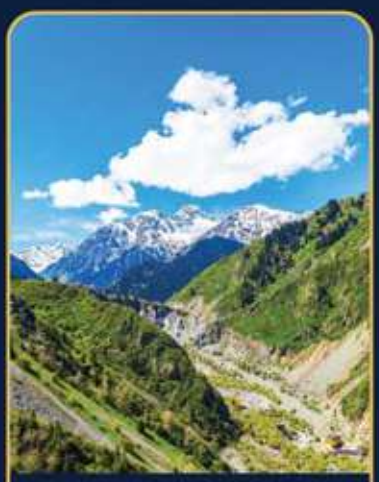

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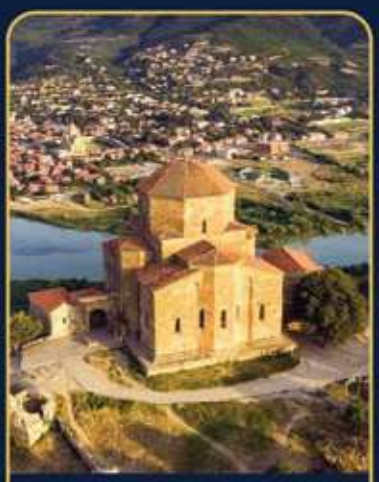

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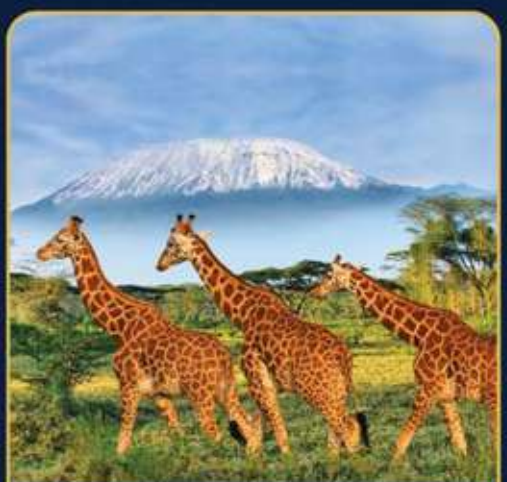

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Cruise Professionals

spotlights India's shift toward premium, immersive, experience-led cruising

Nishith Saxena, Founder & Director, Cruise Professionals, says the Indian cruise traveller in 2026 is far more informed, aspirational and experience-driven, with growing interest in premium, family, luxury and destination-rich voyages.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

Nishith Saxena, Founder & Director, Cruise Professionals

How do you see the Indian cruise traveller evolving in 2026?

The Indian cruise traveller of 2026 is far more informed, aspirational and experience-driven than ever before. Cruises are no longer seen only as luxury holidays for a niche audience but as immersive lifestyle experiences across generations. Younger professionals, multigenerational families and repeat international travellers are increasingly choosing cruises for the convenience, value and diversity they offer. Indian guests are also becoming more discerning — seeking premium experiences, longer itineraries, destination-rich voyages and personalised services. Digital awareness, social media and easier global connectivity have accelerated this evolution.

Which cruise segments or destinations are currently seeing the strongest traction from India?

The strongest traction from India today is clearly in premium and family cruising, particularly across Asia and Europe, driven by first-time cruisers and multigenerational holidays. Eu-

rope continues to attract experienced Indian travellers because of its destination-rich itineraries and strong aspirational appeal. Alaska is witnessing remarkable growth among affluent and well-travelled guests seeking scenic, immersive experiences beyond traditional holidays. Luxury cruising is also steadily expanding as Indian consumers increasingly value exclusivity, personalised service and smaller ships. Expedition cruising remains niche but is generating curiosity among seasoned travellers looking for unique experiences.

Given the current geopolitical unrest, high airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, how do you see outbound cruise demand being impacted?

While geopolitical developments and rising airfares may create short-term caution among travellers, the long-term outlook for outbound cruising from India remains positive. What we are witnessing is not a decline in demand, but a shift in booking behaviour — travellers are planning earlier, choosing value-driven itineraries and preferring trusted brands with strong safety standards and flexible policies. Regional cruise destinations across Asia and the Middle East may benefit in the near term due to shorter flight durations and better air connectivity. At the same time premium travellers are continuing with Europe and Alaska holidays, albeit with greater planning. The Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal is being viewed responsibly by Indian travellers, but leisure travel remains an important aspiration for India's growing outbound market. Cruises continue to offer excellent value, convenience and multi-destination experiences in a single holiday.

Cruise Professionals has been strongly focused on B2B distribution and trade education. What more needs to be done to help Indian travel agents sell cruises with greater confidence?

For the Indian cruise market to grow sustainably, continuous investment in travel trade education remains absolutely critical. At Cruise Professionals, we have spent nearly two decades working closely with travel partners across India and have seen that confidence comes from knowledge, accessibility and experience. Cruises are still a specialised holiday product and cannot be sold like a standard air-ticket or hotel booking.

Travel agents need deeper destination understanding, better product differentiation between expedition, premium, luxury and contemporary cruise lines and stronger knowledge of onboard experiences, visa requirements and itinerary planning. Regular training sessions, ship visits, familiarisation cruises and direct interaction with cruise line experts can significantly improve conversion levels.

Equally important is helping agents position cruises correctly to Indian travellers by focusing on value rather than only the price. The trade also needs better access to marketing support, booking tools and faster operational assistance – our website www.cruiseprofessionals.in provides all this and much more including 100% online booking capabilities to all our channel partners.

What will be the key growth drivers for the market over the next few years?

India's cruise market is still in an exciting early-growth phase and the next few years will be driven by awareness, accessibility and product segmentation. A key factor will be the growing acceptance of cruises as a mainstream holiday rather than a niche luxury experience. Social media, digital content and positive word-of-mouth from repeat guests are already accelerating this shift.

For short-haul and shorter-duration cruises, particularly across Asia and the Middle East, growth will come from affordability, easier visa access, direct flights and the appeal of multigenerational family holidays. These itineraries are ideal for first-time cruisers looking for convenience and value within limited vacation periods.

Long-haul and longer-duration cruises such as Alaska, Europe, Antarctica or world cruises will continue to attract affluent and well-travelled Indian guests seeking immersive and destination-rich experiences. Here the demand will be driven by premiumisation, experiential travel and the desire for curated holidays. BOTT

Cruise holidays
gain new momentum in India

Dipti Adhia, Country Director, Discover the World India, shares insights on the evolving Indian cruise traveller, the destinations and products seeing strong demand, the impact of current global challenges on outbound travel, and how Discover the World India is working closely with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell.

Dipti Adhia, Country Director, Discover the World India

BOTT Desk

How is the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolving, and which cruise products or destinations are currently seeing the strongest demand from India?

The Indian outbound cruise traveller is evolving rapidly, becoming more experienced, aspirational, well-travelled, and increasingly open to diverse cruise experiences. Ocean cruising remains the preferred choice for first-time cruisers, with strong demand for destinations such as Alaska, the Bahamas, Mediterranean, Australia, and the Caribbean on leading cruise lines like Carnival Cruise Line. There is also growing interest in destination-focused experiences, including Greek Island itineraries with Celestyal and European river cruises with AmaWaterways, VIVA Cruises, and Nicko cruises. River cruising across Europe is witnessing strong demand, particularly among affluent travellers seeking cultural enrichment, smaller ships, and destination-focused itineraries.

In light of the current geopolitical unrest, rising airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, how do you see outbound cruise demand being impacted?

The current geopolitical situation, higher airfares, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister's guidance on avoiding non-essential travel have understandably impacted outbound travel demand in the short term. We fully respect these considerations and recognise that travellers are exercising greater caution when planning international holidays. However, travel demand has historically proven resilient, and we remain confident that as conditions stabilise, interest in outbound cruising will return. The long-term fundamentals remain strong, with Indian travellers continuing to seek unique and enriching global travel experiences.

How is your organisation working with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell for Indian travellers?

We work closely with the travel trade through a combination of training, education, and experiential learning initiatives to make cruise holidays easier to understand and sell. Our focus is on equipping travel advisors with the knowledge and confidence to match the right cruise product to the right traveller, whether it is ocean cruising, river cruising, or expedition voyages. Recently, we hosted a river cruise FAM trip on VIVA Cruises aboard VIVA Enjoy from Budapest to Nuremberg with travel partners & trade media. The feedback was exceptional, with many partners highlighting how the firsthand experience transformed their understanding of river cruising and its appeal to Indian travellers. Complementing such initiatives are webinars, roadshows, eDMs, trade media engagement, sales visits, and marketing support, all designed to help our partners confidently position and sell cruise holidays. BOTT

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Holiday Moods Adventure

sees rising Indian demand for Polar & Expedition Cruises

Tejbir Singh Anand, Managing Director, Holiday Moods Adventure, says Indian outbound cruise travellers are moving beyond conventional large-ship holidays towards niche, high-value and experience-led journeys. He highlights strong demand for Northern Lights sailings with Havila Voyages and Antarctica expeditions with Swan Hellenic.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

Tejbir Singh Anand, Managing Director, Holiday Moods Adventure

How is the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolving, and which cruise products or destinations are currently seeing the strongest demand from India?

The Indian outbound cruise traveller is rapidly maturing, transitioning from traditional mass-market, large-ship sightseeing voyages to high-value, niche, and deeply experiential journeys. Modern Indian travellers are looking for rare, once-in-a-lifetime "bucket list" adventures that blend luxury with sustainability and deep exploration.

Currently, we are witnessing an unprecedented and fastest-growing surge in demand for expedition and high-latitude cruises. Specifically, Havila Voyages' Northern Lights cruises along the coastal fjords of Norway are seeing great traction, fuelled by travellers chasing natural wonders in a conscious, environmentally friendly format. Concurrently, Antarctica expedition cruises, such as those offered via Swan Hellenic's 5-star luxury boutique ships, represent a massive pinnacle of growth.

How are geopolitical tensions, rising airfares and PM's call for mindful travel impacting outbound cruise demand?

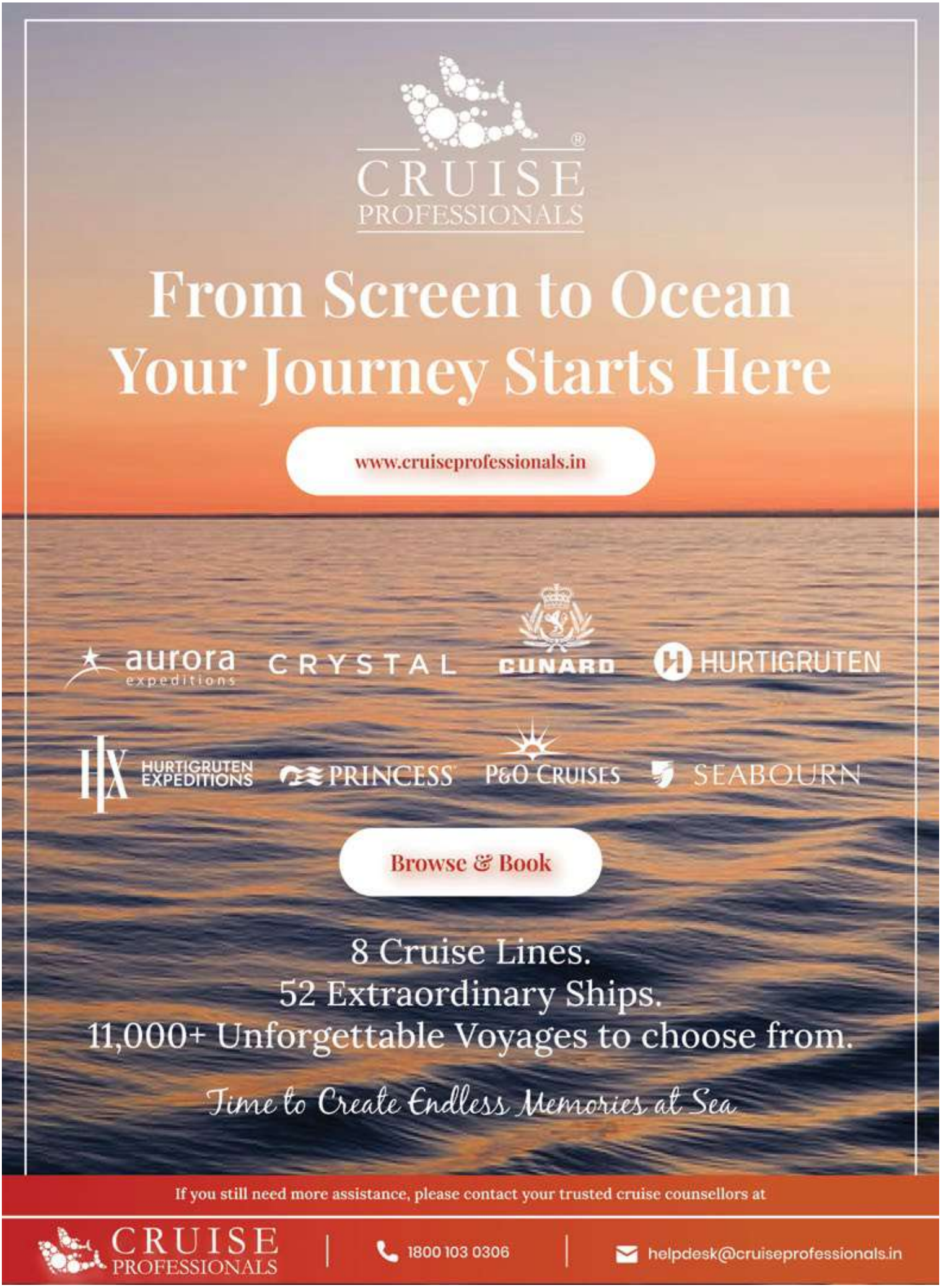
While macroeconomic challenges like surging airfares and geopolitical uncertainties naturally induce caution, the impact on ultra-premium and specialised experiential cruise segments remains highly resilient. Rather than cancelling plans, travellers are becoming hyper-selective—prioritizing high-yield, purposeful journeys over impulsive or repetitive holidays.

The Prime Minister's emphasis on avoiding non-essential foreign travel further encourages a shift toward mindful, high-value outbound exploration. Because polar expeditions and boutique coastal cruises are fundamentally educational, low-impact, and deeply transformative, clients view them as "purposeful" investments in travel rather than frivolous trips. Rising airfares are being offset by travellers choosing all-inclusive, premium fly-cruise packages that guarantee cost certainty, keeping the long-term appetite for these unique polar maritime experiences robust.

How is your organisation working with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell for Indian travellers?

As the official India distributor for leading sustainable cruise lines like Havila Voyages and Swan Hellenic, Holiday Moods Adventures is actively empowering the domestic travel trade through a dedicated B2B ecosystem. We have launched a specialized B2B portal that simplifies the complex booking mechanics of high-latitude cruises, offering travel agents free registration, direct access to fixed departures, and instant downloads of unbranded, white-label brochures.

Furthermore, we conduct regular educational webinars, destination training sessions, and offer 8% to 15% commission structures to ensure our trade partners can comfortably pitch complex regions like the Arctic and Antarctica. By demystifying remote maritime travel and providing end-to-end operational support, we make these premium cruise holidays highly accessible and highly profitable for Indian travel agents to sell. BOTT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StarDream Cruises
forges a new course for Asia's cruise holidays

Michael Goh, President, StarDream Cruises

In an exclusive conversation, Michael Goh, President, StarDream Cruises, shares insights on Dream Cruises' 10-year journey and the brand's year-long 'Decade of Dreams' campaign. He highlights how StarDream Cruises is strengthening Asia-led product design, enhancing onboard experiences, and deepening its focus on key markets such as India.

Gunjan Sabikhi

Dream Cruises is celebrating 10 years with the year-long 'Decade of Dreams' campaign. Looking back at this journey, what do you believe has been the brand's biggest contribution to shaping modern cruise holidays in Asia?

I think the biggest contribution has really been helping make cruising a mainstream holiday choice in Asia. As Dream Cruises celebrates its 10-year journey, it also builds on over 30 years of affiliated experience as a group in the region, so we've always had a strong understanding of what Asian travellers look for — whether it's food, entertainment, or family-friendly experiences. Over the years, we've also seen Asian travellers become much more familiar and comfortable with cruising as a holiday option. What was once considered a niche or unfamiliar experience has now become a more mainstream and aspirational way to travel. Today's travellers are increasingly looking for experience-driven and more flexible holidays that still feel premium and effortless — and cruising fits that shift very naturally.

For StarDream Cruises, how important is Asia-led product design in making cruising more relevant for regional markets such as India?

It's very important for us. Being a homegrown cruise brand in Asia, we really understand how different each market is across Asia. For India specifically, it's about designing ex-

periences that work well for families, celebrations and group travel, while still keeping things flexible and easy. That also includes being sensitive to specific needs — for example, offering vegetarian and Jain meal options, and being able to tailor celebrations and group events onboard. From food to entertainment to itinerary length, it's about making sure the experience feels familiar, comfortable and relevant for the market.

What role do you see Indian travellers playing in StarDream Cruises' future growth strategy? Are you looking at deeper partnerships with Indian travel agents, wedding planners and MICE operators?

India is definitely an important growth and source market for us, especially for the flycruise segment. We see a strong alignment between Indian travellers and cruising, particularly when it comes to family holidays, celebrations, weddings and group travel. We are also looking at deepening our partnerships in India with travel agents, wedding planners and MICE operators, supported by A&P initiatives and familiarisation cruises to help the trade experience cruising first-hand. These partnerships are important because they help us better reach the market, while also allowing us to create more tailored experiences for different types of Indian groups travelling onboard.

How is StarDream Cruises curating newer onboard and shore experiences to appeal to multi-generational Asian families and first-time cruisers?

Multi-generational families are a big part of our guest mix, so the onboard experience is designed to offer something for everyone — from entertainment and dining to relaxation and activities that different age groups can enjoy in their own way. For first-time cruisers, the experience is kept simple, welcoming and easy to navigate, both onboard and onshore. Shore experiences are curated to balance culture, leisure and discovery, giving guests the flexibility to choose between something more relaxed or more immersive. In fact, we're also introducing Forever Broadway in June on the Genting Dream, in collaboration with Broadway International Group, a New York–based production company at the heart of the world's theatre capital. This partnership brings a refreshed line-up of authentic Broadway-style productions onboard, elevating our entertainment offering and delivering a true taste of New York theatre at sea.

What are StarDream Cruises' key priorities in terms of fleet enhancement, new itineraries, guest experience and strengthening its position as a preferred cruise brand in the region?

The next phase of growth in Asia is really being driven by experiential travel, where guests are looking for more than just a holiday — they want meaningful and memorable experiences from the moment they step onboard. For us, this means continuing to strengthen the guest experience, built on our deep Asian heritage and strong understanding of what regional travellers value. This year, as Dream Cruises marks its 10th anniversary, we've also stepped up our experiential lineup with exciting collaborations that tap into global K-pop culture and lifestyle trends — from fitness and wellness programmes featuring Chef French Papa, a culinary personality from Netflix's Culinary Class Wars, with his curated menu available onboard until July 2026, to high-energy experiences inspired by Physical: 100 featuring fan-favourite Amotti (26 July 2026 departure) and the electrifying rise of K-pop with KIIRAS (25 October 2026 departure), which has taken global audiences by storm. BOTT

The true value of luxury cruising for the Indian traveller

By Anima Saxena

Having spent more than two decades in the Indian travel trade, I have witnessed the remarkable transformation of the Indian outbound traveller. Today's Indian guest is more experienced, globally aware and increasingly focused on meaningful and refined travel experiences. Within this evolution, luxury cruising has emerged as a highly differentiated segment compared to mainstream large ship cruises.

Many travellers initially compare cruises only on the basis of price, without fully understanding the immense difference in inclusions and overall experience. International luxury cruise lines such as Crystal operate on a genuinely all-inclusive model that delivers exceptional value. Unlike mainstream cruises where guests often pay extra for speciality dining, premium beverages, gratuities and personalised services, luxury cruises include most of these elements within the fare. This creates a seamless and stress-free holiday experience where guests can simply relax and enjoy the journey.

Another major distinction is the onboard atmosphere. Mainstream large ships are designed for scale, carrying thousands of passengers with extensive entertainment zones and busy public areas. In contrast, luxury cruise lines focus on intimacy, space and personalised service. Guests are recognised by name, preferences are remembered and the experience feels curated rather than standardised.

Luxury cruises also attract travellers who value destination immersion and enrichment rather than only onboard attractions. Smaller ships can access exclusive ports and unique destinations that larger vessels cannot reach, creating a far more authentic travel experience. For experienced Indian travellers seeking Alaska, Northern Europe or Mediterranean journeys, this becomes an important advantage.

Cuisine and wellness are equally important differentiators. Luxury cruise lines invest heavily in fine dining, premium ingredients and personalised culinary experiences that match the expectations of sophisticated global travellers. Indian guests today increasingly appreciate quality, authenticity and wellness-oriented travel, making luxury cruising especially relevant.

In my experience, once travellers experience a true luxury cruise, their perception of cruising changes completely. They begin to value privacy, service excellence and immersive experiences over scale and volume. Luxury cruising is no longer simply about indulgence; it represents a more elegant, enriching and effortless way to explore the world.

As India's affluent traveller base continues to expand, I strongly believe that luxury cruise lines such as Crystal will play an increasingly important role in shaping the future of premium travel from India. BOTT

(***Anima Saxena is Director – Cruise Professionals with special focus on luxury and expedition Cruises***)

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Kishan Biyani, MD, The ARK Travel Group

India's outbound cruise market orients new direction with Ark Travel Group

As Indian travellers become more experience-driven and discerning, cruising is gradually finding its place as a preferred holiday format. In this interaction, **Kishan Biyani**, MD, The ARK Travel Group, shares his perspective on evolving demand patterns, the impact of global uncertainty and how the company is engaging with the travel trade to strengthen cruise awareness and sales.

BOTT Desk

The Indian outbound cruise traveller is evolving steadily, with a growing preference for shorter, more accessible and entertainment-led cruise holidays. While the cruise business for the European and American sectors has been relatively slow in recent times, the Asian cruising market has witnessed encouraging momentum, especially out of Singapore. Products such as Dream Cruises and Disney Cruise Line have generated strong interest among Indian travellers, particularly families, young couples and first-time cruisers looking for a convenient international holiday experience.

Singapore continues to be one of the most promising cruise hubs for the Indian market due to its easy connectivity, shorter flying time, visa convenience and strong appeal as a family-friendly destination. The entry of globally popular brands has further helped in creating excitement around cruising, making it more aspirational and relatable for Indian holidaymakers.

However, the current geopolitical situation, rising airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to avoid unnecessary foreign travel have had an impact on outbound tourism demand. According to Biyani, several large corporates have either postponed their group travel plans or kept them on hold for the time being. This has led to a temporary slowdown in bigger movements. At the same time, smaller corporates continue to travel, and The ARK Travel Group is now focusing more closely on this segment to sustain business momentum.

Biyani believes that this is only a temporary phase and expects the market to return to normal once the Strait of Hormuz situation stabilises and travel confidence improves. In the meantime, the organisation is using this period productively by working closely with its travel trade partners.

The ARK Travel Group is actively conducting small interactive coffee sessions and webinars to educate partners about its cruise products. These initiatives are aimed at making cruise holidays easier to understand, promote and sell, while helping agents build confidence in recommending cruising as a strong holiday option for Indian travellers. BOTT

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Yorker Holidays

Indian travellers set sail for seamless holiday experiences

With Indian travellers increasingly seeking seamless, value-driven and experience-led vacations, cruise holidays are gaining stronger relevance in the outbound travel segment. **Vineet Srivastava**, Founder & Director, Yorker Holidays Pvt. Ltd., shares his insights on evolving traveller preferences, emerging demand trends and how Yorker Holidays is supporting the travel trade in promoting cruises across India.

Gunjan Sabikhi

Vineet Srivastava, Founder & Director, Yorker Holidays Pvt. Ltd.

How is the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolving, and which cruise products or destinations are currently seeing the strongest demand from India?

The Indian outbound cruise traveller has evolved significantly over the last few years. Cruises are no longer viewed only as luxury holidays but as value-driven, all-inclusive experiences suitable for families, honeymooners, millennials, and multi-generational groups. Demand is particularly strong for Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Mediterranean, Alaska, and the Middle East. Short-duration cruises and fly-cruise packages are witnessing exceptional growth due to better connectivity and increased awareness among Indian travellers.

In light of the current geopolitical unrest, rising airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, how do you see outbound cruise demand being impacted?

While geopolitical factors and rising airfares may temporarily influence destination choices, the overall demand for cruise holidays remains resilient. Travellers are becoming more selective and value-conscious, preferring destinations that offer better connectivity, safety, and overall experience. We expect a shift toward nearby cruise markets in Asia and the Middle East rather than a decline in demand. The cruise segment continues to attract travellers seeking unique and immersive holiday experiences.

How is your organisation working with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell for Indian travellers?

At Yorker Holidays, we are committed to strengthening the cruise segment through continuous engagement with the travel trade. We regularly conduct training sessions, webinars, product presentations, and trade events to educate travel partners about cruise products, itineraries, inclusions and selling opportunities.

The recent launch of our dedicated Cruise Portal further simplifies the booking process by providing real-time inventory, competitive pricing, and comprehensive cruise information. Our focus remains on empowering travel agents with the right tools, knowledge, and support to confidently promote and sell cruise holidays across India. We believe that a well-informed travel partner plays a key role in making cruise holidays more accessible and attractive for Indian travellers. BOTT

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Disney Cruise Line

brings storytelling, adventure & family magic closer to Indian travellers

In an exclusive interaction with BOTT, a Disney Cruise Line spokesperson talks about the growing appeal of Disney cruises among Indian families, multi-generational groups, first-time cruisers and Disney fans. The spokesperson highlights how the upcoming Disney Adventure, homeported in Singapore, blends Disney, Pixar and Marvel storytelling with Broadway-style entertainment, themed zones, immersive dining and family-friendly experiences.

BOTT Desk

Disney Cruise Line has always been grounded in creating unforgettable experiences for families, particularly multi-generational families seeking meaningful holidays they can enjoy together. The Disney Adventure draws on over 100 years of storytelling from Disney, Pixar and Marvel to bring to life the first Disney Cruise Line ship for guests in the region. Filled with epic adventures and beloved characters for guests to discover and delight in, the Disney Adventure is designed to be the ultimate vacation at sea.

A cruise vacation on the Disney Adventure is special as guests will be able to enjoy the ship as both the journey, and the destination. Guests of all ages can explore seven uniquely themed areas inspired by Disney, Pixar, and Marvel stories, enjoy Broadway-style entertainment, experience attractions onboard in Disney Cruise Line's first-ever Marvel-themed adventure zone at sea, which features three brand-new attractions, and discover dining experiences that bring together immersive environments, entertainment and cuisine. At the same time, adults can unwind through premium dining, spa experiences, as well as enjoy the bars and lounges onboard.

We have seen strong and growing interest in the Disney Adventure from both regional and international markets, including India, given the ship's homeport in Singapore and accessibility for Indian travellers. The blend of Disney storytelling, world-class entertainment, and experiences tailored for audiences in the region on the Disney Adventure, has resonated strongly with families, first-time cruisers, and Disney fans alike.

The travel trade continues to play an important role in building awareness and confidence around cruise holidays in India. Disney Cruise Line has been actively engaging with travel partners across the region through trade outreach, industry events, and ongoing conversations to help equip partners with a deeper understanding of the Disney Cruise Line experience. BOTT

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Neeraj Sharma, Director, Cruise Carrot

Cruise Carrot showcases India's evolving cruise market

Neeraj Sharma, Director, Cruise Carrot, talks about the evolving Indian outbound cruise traveller and the growing demand for short-haul fly-cruise holidays, family vacations and premium value-led experiences.

BOTT Desk

How is the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolving, and which cruise products or destinations are currently seeing the strongest demand from India?

The Indian cruise traveller is evolving from a once-in-a-lifetime luxury spender into an experience-driven, repeat cruiser. Demand is rapidly increasing for short-haul Fly-Cruise holidays, multigenerational family vacations, and value-led premium experiences that combine convenience, entertainment, and multiple destinations in a single trip.

Singapore & Southeast Asia continue to remain the leading cruise hub for Indian travellers due to short flight durations, easy visa access, strong air connectivity, and attractive short-cruise options.

In light of the current geopolitical unrest, rising airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, how do you see outbound cruise demand being impacted?

Escalating geopolitical tensions have disrupted global supply chains and pushed crude oil prices upward, leading to a sharp rise in international airfares. Since many international cruises require travellers to first fly to embarkation hubs in Europe, the Middle East, or Southeast Asia, the increased cost of air travel is placing significant pressure on consumer travel budgets.

At the same time, the Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal to avoid non-essential foreign travel in support of national economic resilience has contributed to a noticeable decline in overseas holiday inquiries. Travel operators report that both high-net-worth individuals and middle-class families are increasingly shifting toward domestic coastal cruises departing from Mumbai or Goa, as well as premium domestic destinations, as alternatives to vacations in Europe or Southeast Asia.

How is your organisation working with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell for Indian travellers?

Our organisation is working closely with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible, and easier to sell for Indian travellers. First, we are investing heavily in travel partner education through training programs, destination workshops, webinars, and familiarisation cruises. Many Indian travellers are still first-time cruise customers, so empowering travel advisors with better product knowledge helps them confidently explain cruise experiences, onboard inclusions, visa requirements, and value propositions.

We are also collaborating with the trade on flexible pricing strategies, early-bird offers, family packages, and regional promotions to improve affordability and widen the customer base beyond luxury travellers.

To support agents commercially, we continue to enhance B2B booking platforms, provide marketing collateral, digital campaigns, co-branded promotions, and incentive programmes that help partners generate stronger cruise sales. Regional language communication and targeted outreach in emerging Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets are also helping expand awareness among new traveller segments. BOTT

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ClickMyCruise sharpens trade focus to drive cruise growth in India

Nalini Gupta, Managing Director – ClickMyCruise & Lotus Destinations, believes that Indian outbound cruise travellers are increasingly seeking holidays that combine comfort, convenience and cultural immersion.

Shreya Shimpi

Nalini Gupta, Managing Director, ClickMyCruise & Lotus Destinations

How is the Indian outbound cruise traveller evolving, and which cruise products or destinations are currently seeing the strongest demand from India?

Indian travellers today are far more experience-led in their approach to holidays. They are travelling more frequently, taking multiple vacations throughout the year, and looking for journeys that combine comfort, exploration and convenience. Cruising naturally fits very well into this shift, especially for families and multi-generational travellers. Mediterranean cruises continue to see very strong demand from India, particularly itineraries with MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises, where travellers can experience destinations like Italy, Spain and France in one seamless journey without the usual complexities of multi-city European land travel.

In light of the current geopolitical unrest, rising airfares and the recent appeal by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on avoiding unnecessary foreign travel, how do you see outbound cruise demand being impacted?

While geopolitical situations and rising airfares do influence travel decisions in the short term, Indians are continuing to travel and prioritize experiences. What we are noticing is a shift in preference rather than a drop in demand. Travellers today are planning more carefully, looking at overall value, ease of connectivity and meaningful experiences. Naturally, in the current environment and in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's appeal for mindful travel, travellers are becoming more selective about how and where they travel. However, we remain optimistic about the long-term growth of outbound travel once geopolitical conditions stabilize.

Asia cruise itineraries, especially Singapore, Japan, China sailings, have seen strong demand because they are easier to access and work well for shorter holidays.

How is your organisation working with the travel trade to make cruise holidays more relevant, accessible and easier to sell for Indian travellers?

At ClickMyCruise, we see the travel trade as the strongest driver for cruise growth in India. A large part of our effort goes into enabling and educating our travel partners through webinars, training sessions, product updates and sales support. We work closely with agents to help them understand how cruises can be packaged alongside land holidays and positioned for different customer segments. The focus is not just on selling cruises, but on helping the trade confidently sell the right cruise experience to the right traveller. BOTT

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Anjum Lokhandwala

From Passion to Purpose: An inspiring journey in travel

With a love for travel and a passion for connecting with new people, she embarked on a journey shaped by discipline, perseverance and self-learning. With a zest for achieving success, her charismatic persona truly makes her a 'people's person'. Her remarkable journey reflects not only her professional milestones but also her path of self-discovery. BOTT spoke to **Anjum Lokhandwala**, Director, ARK Reps, ARK Travel Group, in which she shared her insights about her journey, favourite travel destination, family and more.

Shreya Shimpi

Looking back on your journey so far, what inspired you to enter the travel industry, and how has it shaped you as a professional?

I entered the travel industry later in life, when my younger daughter was four. She is 25 now, and that is when I did my IATA. What drew me to the travel industry was my love for travel and my passion for meeting new people. This industry has shaped me into an organised person and taught me to prioritise what truly matters.

Reflecting on 2025, what would you say were the three highlights of the year for you—personally or professionally?

Last year, I visited Iceland, and I had the incredible opportunity to witness the Northern Lights. I ticked off one of the biggest things on my bucket list. Professionally, I am still working on it.

What has been your proudest achievement to date, and what keeps you motivated to push boundaries in this industry?

I am still striving every day to grow, achieve more and reach the goals that I have set for myself. When I meet people, I don't limit the conversation only to work, but also to everything beyond work. I feel once you have that kind of conversation with someone, they will never forget you. They will reach out even if it's not just about a particular product that I am dealing with, trusting that I can connect them with someone who does it. I truly consider myself a 'people's person'.

If you could pick one dream destination to visit in 2026, where would it be, and why does it captivate you?

I would love to visit South Korea, especially because I am a huge fan of K-dramas. Beyond that, I feel the destination has a lot to offer, from its rich cultural and culinary experiences to its breathtaking natural beauty.

Could you tell us a bit about your family and share one cherished childhood memory that still makes you smile?

We are a close-knit family — my husband, my two daughters and I. My elder daughter got married two years ago and is settled in the US. The younger one is in Canada. We take family holidays once a year and spend quality time with each other. Last year, we had a memorable cruise holiday together.

What is your message for young professionals who have just entered the travel industry?

This industry is beautiful, and the sky is the limit. You have to work very hard, and self-learning plays a crucial role. Institutional training and programmes won't teach you what you learn yourself through your experiences. Believe in yourself and never stop chasing your dreams. BOTT

QUICK SHOTS

- Your Birthday / Sun Sign: ***December 4, Sagittarius***
- Mountains or Beaches: ***Mountains***
- Favourite Holiday Destination: ***Iceland***
- Best travel hack: ***When I am travelling, I like to do things that the locals do. I trust their recommendations for food and places to visit.***
- Window / Aisle seat: ***Window***
- Favourite Cuisine: ***Chinese***
- Best advice for a first-time traveller: ***Travel with zero expectations and you will return with a hundred per cent satisfaction.***

ASEGO
expands travel protection with Visa Rejection Cover

As Indian outbound travel continues to grow, visa uncertainty is emerging as a key concern for travellers and travel advisors alike. Addressing this evolving need, ASEGO has introduced its Visa Rejection Protection Product to help safeguard travellers against financial losses arising from visa-related trip cancellations.

Dev Karvat, Founder and CEO, Asego

BOTT Desk

According to industry estimates, Indian outbound travel is expected to cross 50 million international trips annually by 2030, driven by rising disposable incomes, easier global connectivity, and growing aspiration-led travel. At the same time, destinations like the Schengen region, the UK, the USA, and Canada continue to remain among the most preferred international markets for Indian travellers.

But alongside this boom, another trend is rapidly emerging — increasing visa-related uncertainty. Today's travellers are booking earlier than ever to lock in lower airfares and hotel prices. According to global travel booking trends, advance international bookings have increased significantly post-pandemic, which means travellers are making substantial non-refundable payments before their visas are approved. Flights, hotels, cruise bookings, activities, and internal transfers are often paid for weeks or even months in advance. In cases of visa rejection or denial, these expenses can quickly turn into unforeseen financial setbacks.

Travel advisors are now managing customers who are not only concerned about the trip experience, but also about protecting the money invested before the journey even begins. As international travel becomes more documentation-driven, financial protection during the visa stage itself is emerging as a growing requirement.

Recognising this shift, ASEGO has exclusively designed its Visa Rejection Protection Product, aimed at safeguarding travellers against visa-related cancellation losses.

The protection offers coverage of USD 500 towards visa rejection-related trip cancellation expenses. It also helps safeguard non-refundable hotel bookings, flight costs, and unused tour packages, reducing the financial burden caused by unexpected visa denials.

Speaking on the growing need for such solutions, Dev Karvat, Founder & CEO, ASEGO Global Assistance & Travel Insurance, said, "International travel today starts much before departure. Travellers are committing significant amounts towards bookings even during the visa stage, and that has created a new layer of financial vulnerability. Visa uncertainty has become a genuine concern for both travellers and travel partners. With this solution, we wanted to create a practical protection layer that addresses a very real and growing gap in the travel ecosystem." BOTT

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We are Proud and Happy to Announce that UTEN has Completed Successfully their First Ever 8 Cities Multi City Series Roadshows Covering the whole SOUTH India State & GUJARAT State in just SPAN of 15 DAYS from 10th March to 25th March 2026.

Thanks to the Ministry of Tourism, Southern Region for their support always provided to the UTEN Roadshows & Activities.
A Big Thanks to All our Participated B2B Suppliers/Exbhitors/Sellers who all have full Trust in UTEN and Always Come Ahead to participate in Major of our UTEN Roadshows and Travel Trade Shows wherever UTEN Exhibits

Appreciate all our visitors Travel Agents / Tour Operators/ Travel Professionals as a Buyer's who took there time out from there busy schedules and Attended our UTEN Roadshow in there Particular Cities. A Majority of Good Feedback from our Travel Agents we UTEN Received that we have got Quality B2B DMC Suppliers & Consolidator in our UTEN Roadshows/UTEN Platform

And yes thanks to all our Local Travel Trade Association Partners for their Support in each and every city. This built a lot of Confidence & Trust for UTEN team to do More such Activities on Regular intervals in there Cities

We UTEN team never forgot the Support, Ideas we get from our Active UTEN Chapter Heads Ranjeetha , Badal Shah , Sanjay Mehta , Nilesh Bhutwala , Raj , Manish Gupta , Kashyap Kanani who are our Backbone in Every Success & Activities we UTEN always do.

We Respect your Trust which you all have in UTEN which Encourages and Motivates us always to come with more such activities in much better and efficient ways

Thanks & Regards

UTEN Founders Team - Winifred D'Souza & Satyaprakash Gupta

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Siyam World, Maldives

Where luxury meets limitless adventure

In a destination celebrated for barefoot luxury and tranquil lagoons, Siyam World, Maldives redefines the island holiday by adding something refreshingly different—scale, energy, and an extraordinary variety of experiences. Spread across a vast natural island in Noonu Atoll, this lifestyle-driven resort is designed for travellers who believe a Maldivian escape should be as exciting as it is indulgent.

Pallavi Sharma

Accommodation is one of Siyam World's standout features. The resort offers one of the largest collections of villa categories in the Maldives, ranging from elegant beach villas and spacious family residences to iconic overwater villas complete with private pools and exhilarating water slides that descend directly into the lagoon. Larger groups and multi-generational families can opt for expansive two, three and four-bedroom residences, creating a private island-home experience with all the comforts of luxury living.

Dining at Siyam World is a journey around the globe. With more than 20 restaurants and bars, guests can savour authentic Japanese cuisine at Arigato, indulge in Italian favourites at Del Mare, explore traditional Thai flavours at Takrai, enjoy Indian specialties at Kurry Leaf, or discover the rich culinary heritage of the Maldives at Kaage. From beachfront Spanish dining at Andalucia to cocktails at the vibrant Together and Mint bars, every meal becomes part of the adventure.

Beyond its dining scene, Siyam World thrives on experiences. Home to the Maldives' largest floating water park, a horse ranch,

electric go-kart track, football field, dive centre, water sports hub, and vibrant evening entertainment, the resort ensures that no two days are ever the same. Guests can snorkel vibrant reefs, participate in coral planting initiatives, enjoy cultural performances, join pool parties, or watch films under the stars with the resort's signature Cinema by Moonlight experience.

One of the most memorable experiences is horse riding along the shoreline. The resort's professional photography services allow guests to capture stunning beachside portraits on horseback, creating postcard-worthy memories against the backdrop of turquoise waters and white sands.

For those seeking relaxation, Veyo Spa offers a sanctuary surrounded by lush tropical vegetation, blending Eastern and Western wellness traditions through therapeutic treatments, hydrotherapy facilities and bespoke wellness rituals. Families are equally well catered for with Kidz World, extensive recreational programmes and activities designed for every age group.

At Siyam World, the Maldives becomes more than a tropical retreat, it becomes an immersive playground where luxury, freedom and unforgettable experiences come together in one spectacular island destination. BOTT

Sun Siyam Iru Fushi

The Maldives unfolds in every shade of blue

A private island escape in the heart of Noonu Atoll, Sun Siyam Iru Fushi brings together beachfront luxury, overwater living, wellness, culture, adventure and exceptional dining. Pallavi Sharma explores how the resort captures the many moods of the Maldives while offering experiences for couples, families and discerning travellers.

Pallavi Sharma

From above, the island appears as a brushstroke of emerald green surrounded by an endless palette of turquoise, sapphire and aquamarine. As the seaplane descends into the heart of Noonu Atoll, Sun Siyam Iru Fushi reveals itself like a private world adrift in the Indian Ocean, a place where time slows to the rhythm of gentle waves and swaying palms. Spread across 52 acres of natural island beauty, the resort captures the essence of the Maldives while offering a remarkable diversity of experiences rarely found within a single destination.

Villas designed for every traveller

Accommodation at Sun Siyam Iru Fushi is as varied as the island itself. The collection of 221 beachfront and overwater villas ranges from intimate hideaways for couples to expansive multi-bedroom retreats designed for families and groups. Beach Villas are tucked among tropical gardens just steps from powder-soft sand, while Water Villas stretch gracefully over the lagoon, offering uninterrupted views of the horizon. Private pools, open-air bathrooms, spacious decks and direct

access to either beach or sea create an effortless connection with the surrounding landscape.

Wellness amid tropical calm

For those seeking complete seclusion, the lavish Celebrity Retreat elevates island living with generous spaces, multiple bedrooms and a sense of privacy that feels worlds away from everyday life. Hidden within lush tropical greenery, The Spa by Thalgo is one of the island's most tranquil sanctuaries. Wooden pathways lead guests through fragrant gardens to treatment pavilions where marine-inspired therapies, Ayurvedic rituals and traditional healing practices encourage complete relaxation.

Beyond massages and treatments, wellness becomes part of daily island life. Morning yoga sessions welcome the sunrise, meditation classes encourage mindfulness, and personalised consultations offer holistic approaches to wellbeing. Even younger travellers are invited into the wellness journey through dedicated spa experiences designed especially for children.

A glimpse of Maldivian culture

While the island's natural beauty is captivating, Sun Siyam Iru Fushi also offers meaningful glimpses into Maldivian culture. Traditional music, dance performances and the resort's Maldivian Roots experiences introduce guests to local heritage beyond the postcard-perfect scenery. As evening falls, cultural celebrations bring the island to life with rhythmic drumming, local flavours and stories that reflect the enduring traditions of the Maldives.

Adventure on land and sea

Adventure is seamlessly woven into the experience. Guided snorkelling excursions at Nemo Reef reveal vibrant coral gardens, while sunset cruises, dolphin-spotting trips, fishing excursions and a wide range of water sports ensure that no two days are ever the same.

A culinary journey across flavours

Dining is one of the resort's defining pleasures. At Iru Restaurant, international flavours come together through themed buffets and live cooking stations. Bamboo presents vibrant Southeast Asian cuisine, while Islander's Grill celebrates freshly caught seafood in a relaxed beachfront setting. For a refined evening, Flavours offers elegant French-inspired dining, while The Trio, perched above the lagoon, serves authentic Italian dishes with panoramic ocean views. Indian travellers often gravitate towards Taste of India, where familiar spices and regional favourites are served against a spectacular backdrop of sea and sky. BOTT

APPOINTMENTS

SEYCHELLES TOURISM BOARD

Vesna Rakić has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the reinstated Seychelles Tourism Board, effective May 15, 2026. Her appointment follows the passage of the Seychelles Tourism Board Bill 2026, which gives STB a renewed mandate to promote Seychelles as a premier sustainable tourism destination. With over 30 years of experience, Rakić brings strong expertise in destination marketing, tourism development, industry partnerships, and tourism systems strengthening.

ATMOSPHERE CORE

Vanita Gomez has taken charge as General Manager of Stillwood Retreat, a Signature Atmosphere Coorg, by Atmosphere Core. With 18 years of experience across premium global hospitality brands and destination hotels in India, Gomez brings expertise in operations, sales leadership, revenue management, MICE, and weddings. She is known for driving revenue growth, enhancing guest satisfaction, leading high-performing teams, and creating memorable guest experiences.

BLACK ROCK HOTELS & RESORTS

Pranav Bharadwaj has joined Black Rock Hotels & Resorts as General Manager of Aamaghati Wildlife Resort Ranthambore. Bringing three decades of experience in the hospitality sector, Bharadwaj will oversee the overall functioning of the resort. His role will focus on elevating guest experiences, strengthening operational performance, and further enhancing the property's positioning within the luxury wildlife hospitality segment.

ENCALM HOSPITALITY

Karthikeyan Kandaswamy has been elevated to Group Chief Financial Officer at Encalm Hospitality. Having earlier served as the company's Chief Financial Officer, Kandaswamy has played a key role in strengthening Encalm's financial foundation and supporting its growth trajectory. In his new role as GCFO, he will oversee financial strategy, governance, and capital management across the group's major business verticals.

HYATT PLACE BHOPAL

Jyoti Mishra now leads Hyatt Place Bhopal as its General Manager. Associated with the property since its pre-opening phase, Mishra brings a deep understanding of the hotel's operations and brand positioning. With 20 years of experience, she specialises in pre-opening operations and long-term property success, while focusing on exceptional guest experiences for both business and leisure travellers.

THE ACCESS GROUP

Arup Mukherjee has assumed the role of Head of Marketing, Hospitality APAC, at The Access Group. In this position, he will lead The Access Hospitality's marketing strategy across the region, with a focus on building brand presence, driving demand, and strengthening engagement with hospitality businesses. He will also support The Access Group's positioning as an employer of choice for technology talent across APAC.

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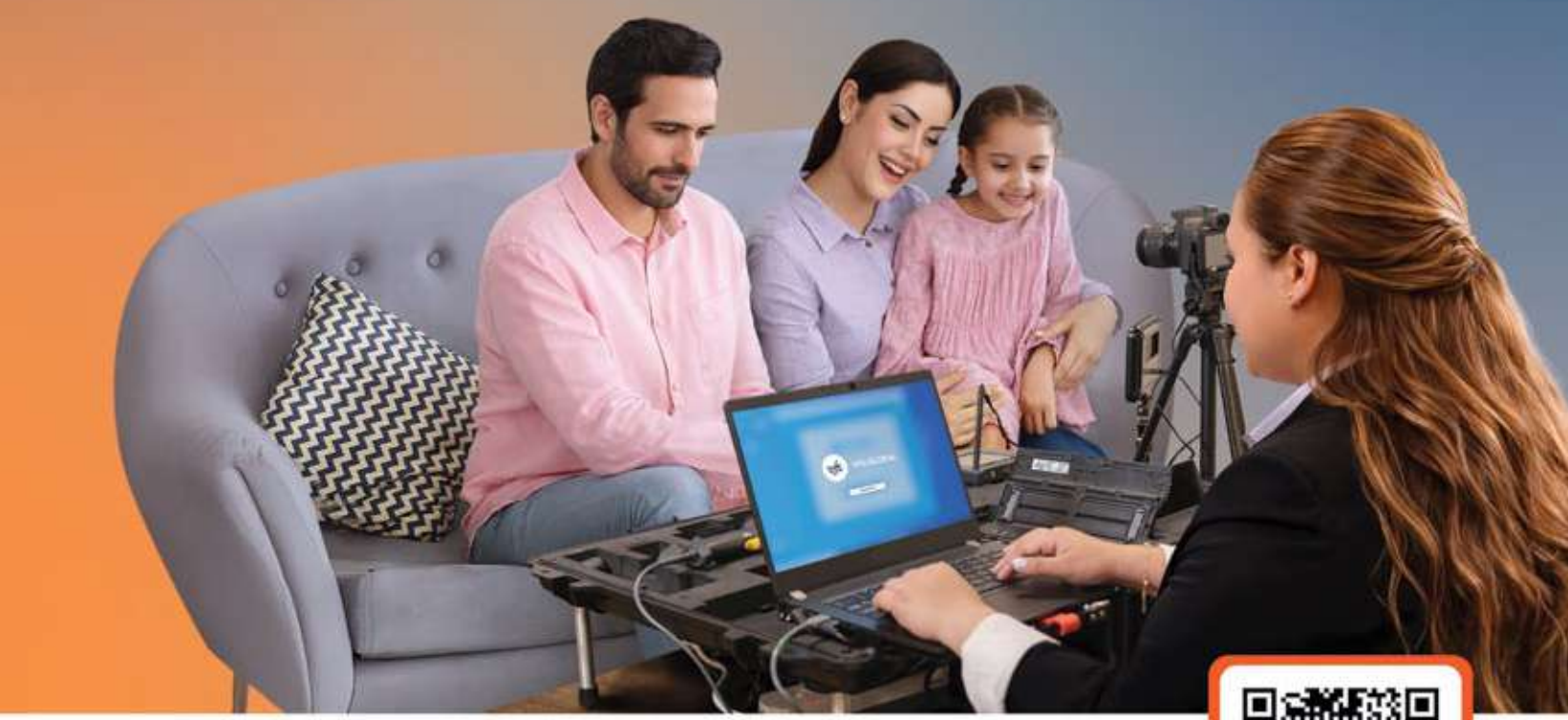

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