

BOTT

Business of Travel Trade

TOURISM | MICE | HOSPITALITY | AVIATION | LIFESTYLE
BOTTINDIA.COM



Fly direct to **Phnom Penh** From
Delhi with Air Cambodia

Now 3x Weekly Flights | Effective *17th December

អាកាសចរណ៍ជាតិកម្ពុជា
AIR CAMBODIA

k6sales@aeroprime.in



WHEN TRAVEL TAKES AN UNEXPECTED TURN,

Trust A Specialist

TO GET YOU BACK ON COURSE.



ASEGŌ

26 YEARS OF PROTECTING JOURNEYS!

TALK TO US TODAY!

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

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





GIVE EVERY SAUDI JOURNEY AN UPGRADE

Get up to **15% OFF** on Umrah+ Packages + a
Complimentary Room Upgrade* on eligible hotel bookings.

BOOK WITH TBO

Saudi
Welcome
to Arabia

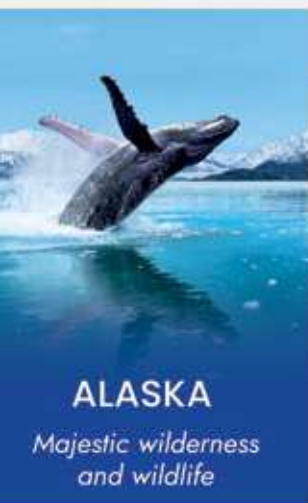


Holland America Line®
SAVOR THE JOURNEY



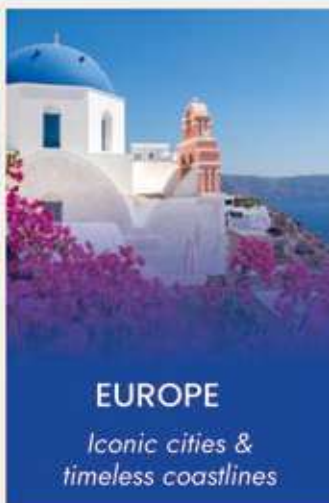
EXTRAORDINARY DESTINATIONS. UNRIVALED EXPERIENCES.

PREMIUM CRUISING AROUND THE WORLD



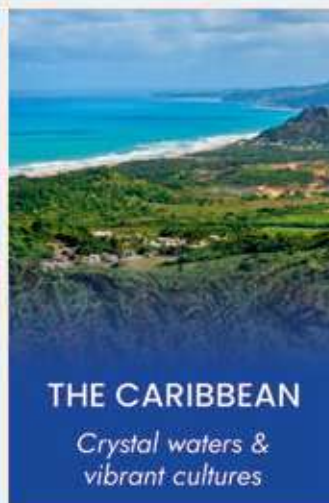
ALASKA

*Majestic wilderness
and wildlife*



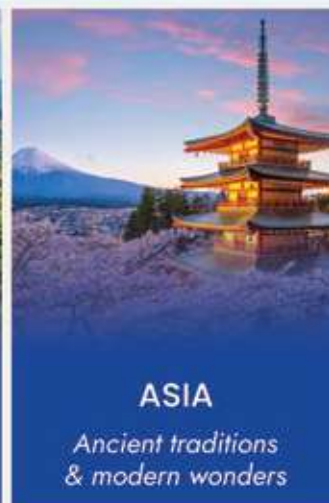
EUROPE

*Iconic cities &
timeless coastlines*



THE CARIBBEAN

*Crystal waters &
vibrant cultures*



ASIA

*Ancient traditions
& modern wonders*



AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

*Breathtaking landscapes
& unique encounters*



**WORLD-CLASS
DINING**



**EXCEPTIONAL
SERVICE**



**SPACIOUS
COMFORT**



**ENRICHING
EXCURSIONS**



**SIGNATURE
ITINERARIES**

Scan to WhatsApp



AIR INDIA
express

WE'RE GOING PLACES.
LITERALLY.

3681
WEEKLY FLIGHTS

206 Routes. 63 Destinations.



**Comfort
Crafted For
Every Journey**

Plush, contoured leatherette seats with generous legroom.*



**Oven
Hot Meals**

A wide range of delicious 'Gourmet' hot meals starting from ₹400, served fresh at 36,000 ft.†



**Unlock The
Unlimited**

Update your guests' details to make the most of Maharaja Club and Tata NeuPass loyalty benefits.‡

A bigger **winter schedule.**
30 new and resumed routes.
And more ways for you to **Xplore More.**



Xplore More destinations across South Asia, West Asia and Southeast Asia

Abu Dhabi • Al Ain • Bahrain • Bangkok • Dammam • Doha • Dubai • Jeddah • Kuwait • Muscat • Phuket • Ras al Khaimah • Riyadh
Salalah • Sharjah • Singapore • Agartala • Ahmedabad • Amritsar • Bagdogra • Bengaluru • Bhopal • Bhubaneswar • Chandigarh
Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad) • Chennai • Coimbatore • Dehradun • Dibrugarh • Goa • Guwahati • Gwalior • Hyderabad • Imphal
Indore • Jaipur • Jammu • Jamnagar • Jodhpur • Kannur • Kochi • Kolkata • Kozhikode • Lucknow • Madurai • Mangaluru • Mumbai
Nagpur • Navi Mumbai • New Delhi • Patna • Pune • Ranchi • Sri Vijay Puram (Port Blair) • Srinagar • Surat • Thiruvananthapuram
Tiruchirappalli • Tirupati • Udaipur • Varanasi • Vijayawada • Visakhapatnam

DISCOVER THE LAND OF ENDLESS HORIZONS

KAZAKHSTAN

WILD LANDSCAPES. TIMELESS CULTURE.



ALMATY NATURALLY

4 Nights & 5 Nights

STARTING FROM US 317*/PP



ALMATY WITH A VIEW

4 Nights/ 5 Days

STARTING FROM US 321*/PP



LOVE IN ALMATY

5 Nights/ 6 Days

STARTING FROM US 995*/PP



KOLSAI OVERNIGHT & ALMATY

5 Nights/ 6 Days

STARTING FROM US 471*/PP



FOUR JEWELS OF KAZAKHSTAN

8 Nights/ 9 Days

STARTING FROM US 789*/PP

WHY KAZAKHSTAN?

From the vibrant streets of Almaty to turquoise alpine lakes, dramatic canyons and vast open landscapes, experience a country shaped by nomadic traditions, Silk Road heritage and breathtaking natural beauty.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Iconic
Landmarks



Rich History
& Culture



Authentic Local
Experiences



Scenic Cable
Car Experience



Handpicked Hotels
& Comfort

*T&C Apply

KAZINTM
DMC
Kazakhstan • Uzbekistan • Kyrgyzstan

10
YEARS
OF TRUST

Head Office:
A-10/03, 2nd Floor, DLF Phase-1,
Gurgaon, Haryana-122002
+91 124-4200130/31
www.kazindmc.com

Our Offices:
• Kazakhstan
• Azerbaijan
• Belarus
• Georgia
• Uzbekistan
• Armenia

Jalsa

NAMASTE
KOLSAY RESTAURANT



Bangkok Season

Discover the best with AirAsia!



Fly direct from **NEW DELHI**
✈ **Bangkok**

FROM
INR **12,905**
All-in Fare, One-way

Origin	Destination	Flight No.	Frequency	Departure	Arrival
New Delhi	Bangkok (DMK)	XJ231	Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun	20:55	02:44+1
Bangkok (DMK)	New Delhi	XJ230	Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun	16:45	19:40

T&C apply.

reservations.airasia@apgindia.co.in

1800-103-3587

viaeast DMC

A Unified Destination Group

School Special

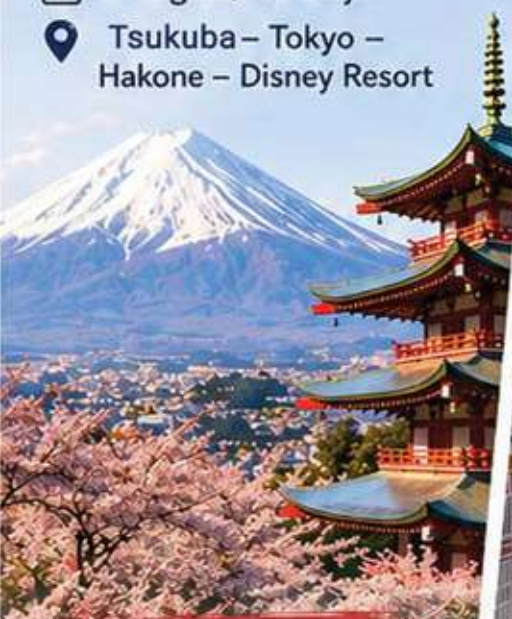
Learn. Explore. Experience

Curated Educational
Experiences Across East Asia



JAPAN

07Nights/ 08 Days
Tsukuba – Tokyo –
Hakone – Disney Resort



STARTING FROM
JPY 353,300
PER PERSON

Minimum 35 Pax

i love
Japan
DMC

SOUTH KOREA

05Nights/ 06 Days
Seoul



STARTING FROM
USD 880
PER PERSON

Minimum 35 Pax

ASK
And South Korea
DMC

TAIWAN

07Nights/ 08 Days
Taipei – Nantou



STARTING FROM
USD 750
PER PERSON

Minimum 35 Pax

AND
TAIWAN
DMC

experience
abu dhabi

Beyond the Ordinary, Craft your Journey

From quiet heritage mornings to adventurous afternoons, Abu Dhabi offers something to every kind of traveler. One city, a world of experiences.



For deals, rewards, incentives, and more,
contact us at info@tboacademy.com

tboacademy
Marketing | Conversion | Education

Contents

Editor
Priyanka Saxena Ray

Director
Gunjan Sabikhi
gunjan@bottindia.com

Director Design
Rajesh Chhetri

Assistant Editor
Pallavi Sharma

Assistant Editor-West India
(Mumbai)
Shreya Shimpi

Reporter
Somya Deep

Consulting Editor
Aishwarya Srivastava

Administration
Aparna Kapoor

Circulation & Desk
Ashish Sarthak
Vishal Maurya

Published and Printed by
Rai Umraopati Ray on behalf of
More Media Pvt. Ltd.,
B6, Ground Floor, Kalkaji,
New Delhi - 110 019

BOTT House
Top Floor, E-40, Anand Niketan,
New Delhi: 110021
Email: info@bottindia.com
Phone: 91 8800437575
RNI/DELENG/2019/1343884

BOTT
Business of Travel
BOTTINDIA.COM



Disclaimer: All information is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract or in interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the book cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without express permission from publisher. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any loss caused by any delay in publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear.



58

Beyond his professional achievements, he finds great joy in his family and the memorable experiences they have shared. Abbas Moiz, President, TAFI, shares more in an exclusive chat.

TAAI@75: TAAI leaders and members share their perspectives on the industry's changing landscape and expectations from this milestone Convention.

26



30

More than 40 leading industry professionals — including representation and country leaders, travel agents, tour operators and specialists — to decode the year so far and next phase of Indian outbound travel.

TBO Academy's Luxury Connect strengthens 16
premium travel ties in Mumbai and Delhi

Explore France 2026 deepens France's engagement 18
with Indian Travel Trade in New Delhi

Oman Air eyes steady growth in India as 20
outbound travel gains momentum

Tejbir Singh sets the agenda for Responsible 22
Adventure Tourism Growth

Singapore where enchanted Gardens meet 44
extraordinary Adventures

No one covers
India's most beautiful Islands
Like we do
We call ourselves



**andaman
experts**
explore andaman, with experts

**Your support
system for
ANDAMANS &
LAKSHADWEEP**



Scan for Packages

 info@andamanExperts.com

 **+91 99998 88412 , +91 9540080716**



Editor's LETTER

Dear Readers,

October has turned out to be an exceptionally busy month for the travel trade, with conventions, industry gatherings and business events taking centre stage. Our BOTT October Outbound Special Issue brings together some of the most important developments, discussions and perspectives shaping the travel industry today.

We begin with extensive coverage of the recently concluded IATO Convention in Visakhapatnam, where industry leaders deliberated on the opportunities and challenges facing India's inbound tourism sector. Equally exciting was the TAFI Convention 2026 in Rhodes, Greece, which celebrated the Federation's 40th anniversary with an impressive gathering of over 400 travel professionals. From engaging business sessions and discussions on AI and technology to exceptional Greek hospitality, the convention offered a memorable experience.

And the convention season is far from over! This issue will also be circulated at the upcoming TAAI Convention in Kolkata. To mark the occasion, we reached out to TAAI members across India to understand their expectations from the convention and their perspectives on the evolving outbound travel market. Their insights make for an interesting read.

Our Outbound Special also features voices from travel specialists across the country, highlighting emerging destinations, changing consumer preferences, business challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Beyond conventions, we bring you coverage of the Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart (RTDM) in Jaipur and WTM Spotlight in Riyadh, alongside exclusive interviews, destination features and the latest developments from across the industry.

As we move from one convention to another, what stands out is the industry's eagerness to connect, collaborate and explore new possibilities. These gatherings are a reminder that despite changing market dynamics, relationships remain at the heart of the travel business.

Read all this and much more in our October issue.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

Priyanka Saxena Ray
Editor, BOTT - Business of Travel Trade

VOYAGE 1

Your preferred DMC partner

Global Reach Local Expertise
Extra ordinary destinations One expert team



Voyage 1 DMC brings you closer to the world's most captivating destinations with local expertise and unmatched service.



Scan to connect
on WhatsApp

Ministry of Tourism

launches Digital Tourism Stack and Dekho Apna Desh 2.0

World Tourism Day 2026 celebrations in New Delhi placed the spotlight on technology, alternative destinations, responsible tourism and stronger industry partnerships.

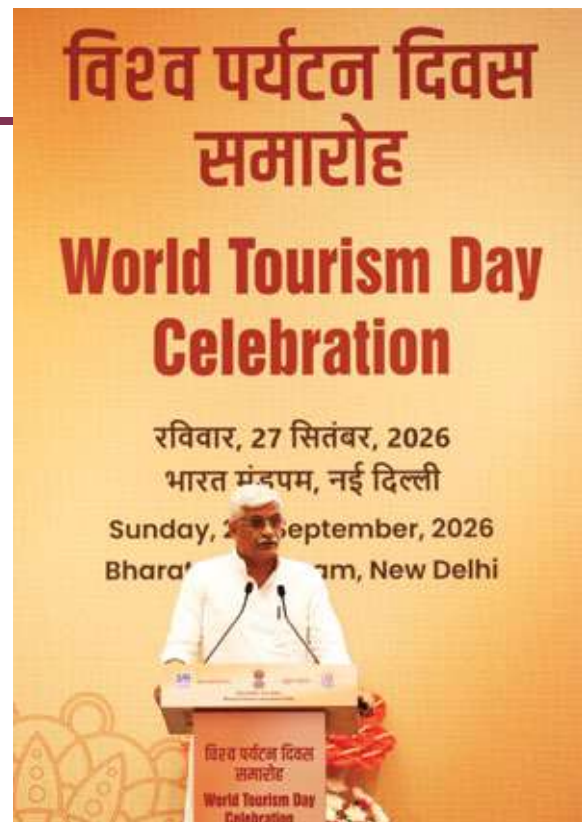
The Ministry of Tourism marked World Tourism Day 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with the launch of two major initiatives — the National Digital Tourism Stack and the National Mission for Alternative Destinations – Dekho Apna Desh 2.0. The event was attended by Union Minister for Tourism and Culture Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Tourism Secretary Bhuvnesh Kumar, senior officials and industry representatives.

The National Digital Tourism Stack, being developed with ONDC and supported by the International Centre for DPI Innovation and Advancement, aims to make tourism offerings more discoverable and accessible through verified supplier credentials, search, payments, ratings and grievance redressal. A pilot is planned for January 2027.

Dekho Apna Desh 2.0 will focus on redistributing tourism demand towards lesser-known destinations, including hill, coastal, heritage and pilgrimage locations, while promoting local experiences and community participation.

The Ministry also exchanged five MoUs with Airbnb India, FlixBus India, Glance, Eicher Group Foundation and MakeMy-Trip for destination promotion, community-led tourism and responsible travel. The collaborations are non-commercial and non-financial.

The event also saw the release of India Tourism Statistics 2026 and the launch of a Swachhhta awareness campaign focused on cleanliness at pilgrimage, temple and heritage sites. **BOTT**





Connecting **India** to **Central Asia!**

Fly direct to **Tashkent** from **Delhi**
and **Hyderabad** with Centrum Air.



Flight Schedule

Sector	Flight #	Days	Departure	Arrival
DEL-TAS	C6 558	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	1210	1435
TAS-DEL	C6 557	Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun	0640	1050
HYD-TAS	C6 552	Tue, Fri	0335	0745
TAS-HYD	C6 551	Mon	2100	0220
TAS-HYD	C6 551	Thu	2130	0220

Centrum Air India, GSA Aeroprime Group

c6res@aeroprime.in



TBO Academy's

Luxury Connect strengthens premium travel ties in Mumbai and Delhi

TBO Academy's second Luxury Connect brought 25 exhibitors and 150 buyers together in Delhi and Mumbai, highlighting growing opportunities for luxury travel across metros and smaller cities.

BOTT Desk



The second edition of TBO Academy's Luxury Connect concluded in Delhi, bringing together 25 luxury and ultra-luxury resort exhibitors and 150 buyers. Around 60–65 buyers were from Delhi, while others represented North, East and Northeast India. The initiative connects premium hospitality brands with travel buyers. An earlier Mumbai edition also hosted 150 buyers, including participants from Pune, Bengaluru, Nagpur, Ahmedabad and Raipur.

Speaking to BOTT, Ankush Nijhawan, Co-founder and Joint MD, TBO Tek Limited highlighted the importance of giving travel partners access to a wider premium portfolio. Exhibitors, he noted, valued meeting luxury sellers from tier-II and tier-III cities, reflecting opportunities beyond established metropolitan markets. Having expanded from Delhi last year to two cities this year, the initiative could explore a third destination next year.

Nijhawan remained optimistic about travel demand growing despite geopolitical disruptions: "Travel didn't stop. With Diwali coming around, Q4 looks very, very good," he added. **BOTT**





COLLECTION
SRI LANKA

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT WHERE YOU STAY

It's how you *feel*
while you're there



Explore France 2026

deepens France's engagement with Indian Travel Trade in New Delhi

Atout France brought its offsite flagship Explore France showcase to New Delhi for the first time, combining an elegant networking evening at the Embassy of France in India with focused media and B2B interactions the following day.



BOTT Desk

The New Delhi edition of Explore France 2026 opened with a networking soirée at the Embassy of France in India on September 22, where Lisa Amon, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of France in India, welcomed members of the Indian travel trade, media, French tourism partners and the wider French network for an evening of conversations and engagement.

The following morning, the programme moved to The Leela Palace, New Delhi, where dedicated media interactions offered participating French partners an opportunity for one-on-one engagement with India's B2B

travel media.

Now in its seventh offsite edition, Explore France is one of Atout France's flagship B2B properties and was hosted in Delhi in an offsite format for the first time. The showcase featured 16 partner members, representing a cross-section of regions, cities, attractions, hotels, shopping destinations and transport partners.

According to Sheetal Munshaw, Director, Atout France, the format has evolved in recent years towards more segmented showcases, allowing the tourism board to create deeper engagement around specific travel segments. India, she added, continues to deliver steady growth for France, averaging around 10 per cent year-on-year,

barring the pandemic period, with a noticeable shift towards higher-value tourism.

"We are seeing much higher-value tourism from India, which is very much in sync with our strategy. We remain deeply grateful to the Indian travel trade for being such strong supporters, ambassadors and friends of France, and we look forward to continuing to grow together," said Munshaw.

The two-day showcase underlined Atout France's continued focus on strengthening relationships with the Indian travel trade and creating more targeted, meaningful engagement around France's diverse tourism offerings. **BOTT**



Connect with us for:

- *Access to some of the world's most iconic products and attractions*
- *Support in developing your outbound business to Europe, The UK and Australia*



ETOA



Auxilia Networks

North and East India: north@auxilia.in

West and Central India: bom@auxilia.in

South India: south@auxilia.in



Oman Air

eyes steady growth in India as outbound travel gains momentum

Sunil V A, Regional Vice President-ISC, Commercial Sales, Oman Air, shares his insights on Oman Air's performance, evolving Indian traveller trends, network expansion and the outlook for outbound travel. In an exclusive conversation with BOTT, he highlights new routes, growing leisure and MICE demand, and the opportunities shaping India's travel market through 2027.

Shreya Shimpi

Year 2026 so far...

2026 has brought new challenges that have impacted the aviation industry. Oman Air continued to operate flights as per schedule with no cancellations from India. This has been a year of focusing on optimal capacity utilisation at the right price, with a prime focus on point-to-point traffic that promotes Oman as a destination.

Evolving Indian traveller and their preferences

The Indian traveller has been ever-evolving, and we see new categories being born based on maturity and experience. The most encouraging is the growing first-time traveller segment, with guests from all age groups taking off on their first international journey, which is the key to growth in the travel segment. The ease of travel, relaxation of visa regulations by multiple countries, more international flights and an increasing network of airlines is fu-

elling the growth of travellers from all walks of life. Oman Air has been able to be part of the travel patterns of Indian guests travelling to Oman and vice versa, in addition to the guests who travel beyond with us to Europe, Africa and GCC. Our state-of-the-art premium offering, which is highlighted by guests as friendly, simple and value-driven, is complemented by the modern and convenient Muscat International Airport, which provides a seamless overall experience.

Responding and adapting to changing destination preferences

We have seen great interest from Indian travellers to explore new destinations in South East Asia or we see them go back to their favourites in the region. This has been fuelled by the ongoing geopolitical challenges, and anyone who has the time and money at their disposal does not want to miss their much-desired getaway to recharge, learn and experience more

from travel. Oman Air has seen steady progress in guests visiting the Sultanate of Oman, which is our prime objective being the national airline, and we also see reasonable interest from guests to travel across our network beyond Oman. We have customised products to attract demand based on seasonality, events and special interests to encourage more guests to experience our hospitality and services.

New routes, increased frequencies or network developments

Our objective has always been to provide consistent and reliable services across our network, and during these times we have worked hard to achieve success. During this period, we also looked at network expansions and have launched flights to Singapore, Tashkent, Sochi & Abu Dhabi during the last few months. A few more new routes are being studied, and we expect to expand our network steadily in the coming months. **BOTT**

FEEL THE LAND. LIVE THE CULTURE.

MOROCCO

Beyond the expected.

Private journeys, groups, incentives
and specialist travel. Crafted around you.



IMPERIAL CITIES

Medinas, design
& living history



ATLAS & VILLAGES

Mountain landscapes
& local encounters



SAHARA & OASES

Desert adventures
& nomadic traditions



ATLANTIC ESCAPES

Coastal culture
& unhurried days

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

NIKE

Morocco field research
September 2026

From idea to immersion.

A bespoke expedition exploring textiles, craftsmanship
and desert environments, designed and coordinated
by Antica.

ARTISAN ENCOUNTERS / SPECIALIST ROUTING / SAHARA LOGISTICS

THE ANTICA DIFFERENCE

Bespoke by design

Routes, stays and experiences
shaped around each client's
interests, pace and comfort.

Access through local people

Artisan ateliers, local hosts
and specialist guides bring
Morocco's living culture closer.

Your brand. Our ground team.

White-label delivery, private
transport and responsive
guest care across Morocco.

Caftan ateliers | Farm-to-table cuisine | Gnawa traditions | Private cultural evenings

Bring us the brief. We'll craft the journey.

INDIA | BTFL TRAVEL

Shubhangi Chitre

s.chitre@btfltravel.com

btfltravel.com

MOROCCO | ANTICA EXPERIENCE

hello@antica-experience.com

+212 708 028 304

antica-experience.com



Tejbir Singh

sets the agenda for Responsible Adventure Tourism Growth

As adventure tourism gathers momentum across India, ATOAI is looking to strengthen industry standards, member engagement, safety practices and responsible growth. In this interaction, **Tejbir Singh Anand**, the Association's new President outlines his priorities for the next two years and shares his views on positioning India more strongly on the global adventure tourism map.

Priyanka Saxena Ray



What are your key priorities as President of ATOAI over the next two years?

My foremost priorities are Membership and Mentorship, ensuring ATOAI delivers tangible value and direct business benefits to every member. We will institute structured mentorship programmes where industry veterans guide emerging operators in product curation, compliance and global marketing.

Alongside expanding chapter outreach and public-private partnerships, our goal is to build an empowered, closely knit community where members gain access to exclusive market intelligence, continuous upskilling and a stronger collective voice.

Another priority is strengthening ATOAI's institutional framework and advocating for policies that formally recognise adventure tourism as a primary economic engine. We aim to expand capacity-building across regional chapters, foster robust public-private partnerships with state tourism boards and the Ministry of Tourism, and establish India as a safe, highly regulated and globally respected adventure hub.

What more is needed to strengthen safety, skills and operating standards?

Rapid growth must never compromise traveller safety. We need nationwide adoption and stringent enforcement of the Indian Adventure Tourism Guidelines (ATG). This entails institutionalising accredited operator certifications, regular safety audits and mandatory gear standards.

Equally vital is professionalising grassroots talent through certified risk-management courses and wilderness first-responder training, ensuring field leaders meet global safety benchmarks.

Where do you see India's biggest untapped adventure tourism opportunities?

Contrary to common perception, the Indian Himalayas are still not well known globally—the world largely associates the range with Nepal, even though India is the custodian of 73% of the Himalayan region. We urgently need aggressive, high-impact global digital awareness campaigns

showcasing India's monumental natural heritage.

India's greatest untapped opportunities lie in diversified year-round experiences: coastal and marine water sports, desert circuits, river expeditions and mountain biking across lesser-known corridors. To compete globally, we must streamline bureaucratic hurdles—especially single-window clearances and permit systems for remote zones—improve regional air and road connectivity, and execute targeted, quality-driven international marketing campaigns.

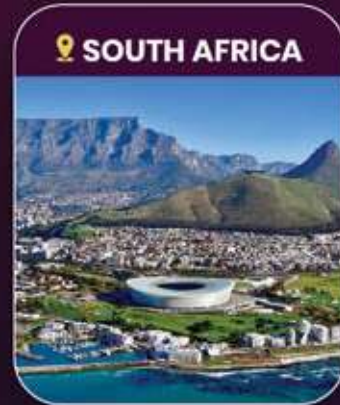
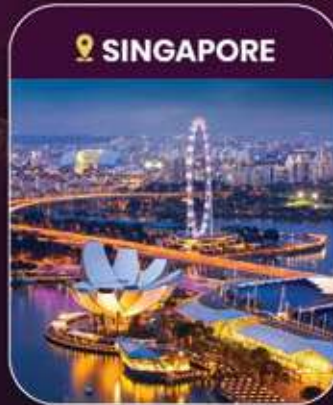
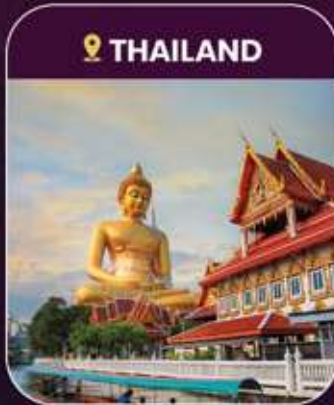
How can growth be balanced with conservation and community participation?

True sustainability means putting local communities at the centre of the value chain. By training local youth as guides, porters and enterprise owners, tourism revenue directly empowers host regions. Alongside this, the industry must adhere strictly to carrying capacities in fragile ecosystems, embed "Leave No Trace" principles into every itinerary, and actively invest in habitat conservation. **BOTT**

This Diwali, take your clients places.

Curated festive journeys. Seamless DMC support. One global partner.

FESTIVE ESCAPES ACROSS THE GLOBE



• FITs • Groups • MICE • Corporate • Luxury Travel

100% B2B | GLOBAL DMC NETWORK



Local Experts



Dedicated Destination Teams



End-to-End Operations



B2B Support

Plan your clients' Diwali journeys
with One Above. For B2B enquiries:

enquiry@one-above.com



Strengthening India's Travel Trade through Collaboration

Abhishek Goyal

India's travel and tourism industry is entering a period of significant transformation. As traveller expectations evolve, technology reshapes distribution and connectivity expands across domestic and international markets, the role of the travel trade remains more important than ever. At the centre of this evolution are organisations such as the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) and the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), which continue to bring the industry together around shared priorities and opportunities.

TAAI's "Business with Goodness," articulated at its 68th Convention, underlines the importance of trust, integrity and responsible business in building lasting relationships across the travel industry. TAFI's "Connecting Legacies – Crafting Futures," the theme of its 40th Anniversary Convention, reflects the importance of building on the industry's strong foundations while embracing innovation and new opportunities for the future.

These themes are complementary. The future of travel cannot be built through technology alone, nor can it rely solely on traditional ways of doing business. It requires a balance between human relationships and digital capabilities, between established expertise and continuous innovation.

At Aeroprime Group, we see collaboration as central to this transition. Airlines, travel agencies, tour operators, technology platforms, GDS partners and destination stakeholders each bring a distinct strength to the ecosystem. When these stakeholders work more closely, opportunities can translate into sustainable growth, while travellers benefit from greater choice, efficiency and service.

India's expanding connectivity, particularly from Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets, presents significant opportunities for the travel trade. Realising this potential, however, will require continued investment in digital adoption, professional development, customer experience and stronger industry collaboration.

As India strengthens its position as a major global travel market, TAFI and TAAI will continue to play an important role in connecting stakeholders, representing industry interests and creating platforms for knowledge and dialogue.

The next chapter of Indian travel will be shaped by how effectively we combine the values of our legacy with the possibilities of the future. By building on trust, embracing innovation and working together, we can create a travel ecosystem that is resilient, responsible and ready for sustained growth. **BOTT**

The writer is Executive Director & CEO, Aeroprime Group



SWAN HELLENIC

SEE WHAT OTHERS DON'T

All Inclusive 5 ⚡ Luxury
Boutique Expedition Cruises

Arctic

Antarctica

Asia Pacific

Latin America

Africa

Europe



HAVILA
Norway Coastal Cruise

Guaranteed Northern Lights
Award Winning Luxury Ships

Free Wifi

No Gratuity

Free Cafe

Free Sauna/ Jacuzzi



Distributors in India

**HOLIDAY
MOODS
ADVENTURES**



🌐 www.holidaymoods.net

☎ +91 7011257590

✉ b2bdmc@holidaymoods.net

TAAI@75

Celebrating a legacy, empowering the future of travel

As the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) prepares to celebrate 75 glorious years at its 69th Convention & Exhibition in Kolkata from October 25-27, 2026, the travel fraternity looks forward to a landmark gathering. From emerging outbound tourism trends and evolving traveller preferences to AI-driven transformation and new business opportunities, TAAI leaders and members share their perspectives on the industry's changing landscape and expectations from this milestone Convention.

Priyanka Saxena Ray, Shreya Shimpi and Pallavi Sharma



Sunil Kumar R.
President, TAAI

The 69th TAAI Convention & Exhibition in Kolkata is a historic occasion as we celebrate 75 glorious years of excellence, leadership and service to India's travel and tourism industry. We have consciously chosen to host this landmark Convention in India, reaffirming our commitment to Incredible India and showcasing the country's immense tourism potential. Kolkata,

with its rich heritage, culture and hospitality, provides a wonderful setting for this celebration.

Our theme, "Empowering Evolution," reflects the need for travel businesses to remain relevant in a rapidly changing industry. Artificial Intelligence, emerging technologies, evolving traveller expectations and new business models are transforming tourism. We must embrace these changes while strengthening the role of travel professionals.

With approximately 900 delegates and media expected, I look forward to meaningful discussions, knowledge sharing, networking and stronger industry partnerships.



Shreeram Patel
Hon. Secretary General, TAAI

As we celebrate 75 glorious years of TAAI, our upcoming Convention in Kolkata is more than just an event; it is a celebration of our journey, unity and the collective strength of India's oldest and largest travel trade association. This landmark occasion reflects decades of achievements, partnerships and the unwavering commitment of our members towards

strengthening India's travel and tourism industry.

The Convention will bring together members from across India, offering valuable opportunities for business networking, knowledge sharing, exploring new avenues of

growth and meaningful industry interactions. It will also provide a platform to reconnect with colleagues, exchange ideas and collectively look towards the future of our industry.

I sincerely urge every TAAI member to register, participate wholeheartedly and encourage fellow members to join us. Your presence will add immense significance to this historic milestone. Let us come together in Kolkata and make this 75th anniversary Convention truly memorable. See you all in Kolkata!



Bettaiah Lokesh
Vice President, TAAI

TAAI's 69th Convention & Exhibition will be held in the City of Joy and Cultural Capital of India, Kolkata, West Bengal, from October 25-27, 2026, at ITC Royal Bengal. Under the inspiring theme "Empowering Evolution – Journey Beyond Today, Bash On Regardless," we

extend a warm welcome to all delegates for what promises to be the Convention of the Decade!

Over three action-packed days, delegates will gain exclusive insights through keynote sessions featuring global visionaries and industry pioneers who are re-writing the rules of travel. Targeted masterclasses will offer practical learning on AI integration in travel marketing, sustainable tourism practices and risk management, helping members prepare for emerging industry opportunities.

The Convention will also facilitate networking with over 700 agency owners, tour operators, aviation professionals, hospitality leaders, invitees and representatives from state and international tourism boards through dedicated B2B sessions and evening galas.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Kolkata!



Paras Lakhia
Hon. Treasurer, TAAI

We are truly delighted and excited as we celebrate 75 glorious years of TAAI across the country, marking a remarkable journey of legacy, leadership and dedicated service to India's travel and tourism industry. This milestone is a proud moment for every TAAI member and reflects the association's longstanding contribution towards bringing the travel trade community together.

The 69th TAAI Convention, being held during this memorable anniversary year at the magnificent ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata, from October 25-27, promises to be a grand gathering of our industry. It will bring together members, partners, friends and industry leaders to celebrate our shared achievements, strengthen relationships and look ahead to an even more promising future.



Rajan Sehgal
Chairman - Public Relations Council & Member MC, TAAI

2026 is a historic year for TAAI as we celebrate 75 glorious years of dedicated service to India's travel and tourism industry. This milestone reflects the association's remarkable journey, its contribution to the industry and the strong bonds that unite our travel trade fraternity.

We have chosen West Bengal to host this historic Convention as it offers an excellent opportunity to showcase the state's rich cultural heritage, spiritual traditions, art, music and distinctive cuisine. Kolkata, fondly known as the City of Joy and Love, will welcome our members and industry colleagues to the magnificent ITC Royal Bengal for this memorable celebration. Beyond the Convention, we want delegates to explore the unexplored and discover the hidden gems of West Bengal.



Anurag Agarwal
Hon. Secretary, TAAI Northern Region

Travel never really stops. It may slow down during challenging times, but it always revives, often faster than expected. India's outbound market currently faces disruptions in the Middle East, rising airfares and a stronger US dollar, but demand remains resilient. Japan and Vietnam have emerged as strong favourites, while Malaysia is witnessing significant growth. Bali continues to attract Indian travellers, and Thailand and Singapore remain perennial favourites. Experiential travel, family holidays, luxury, honey-

moons and MICE will continue to drive growth.

We are entering a new travel environment shaped by AI, bringing excitement as well as uncertainty. Technology has always played an important role in our industry's evolution. I look forward to the TAAI Convention in Kolkata as an opportunity to understand these changes, explore emerging travel trends and discover how AI can enhance our businesses.



Dr. Manoj Sogani
Chairman, TAAI Rajasthan Chapter

We are delighted to celebrate 75 remarkable years of TAAI with the 69th TAAI Convention in Kolkata. With the City of Joy as our host, October promises to be a festive and exciting experience, bringing together TAAI members, airline heads, industry experts and

distinguished speakers at the magnificent ITC Royal Bengal.

The Convention will feature a vibrant B2B Expo, tourism board partnerships, valuable networking opportunities, entertainment and engaging knowledge sessions. It will provide an excellent platform for members to connect, exchange ideas, strengthen business relationships and explore new opportunities within the travel and tourism industry.



Hemendra Singh Jadon
Chairman, TAAI MP & CG Chapter

India's outbound tourism market continues to show strong momentum, driven by rising aspirations, improved connectivity and travellers seeking diverse experiences. We are witnessing growing interest in leisure, luxury, MICE, family holidays and experiential travel. Destinations offering unique experiences, seamless connectivity and value will continue attracting Indian travellers. Emerging destinations and customised travel also hold immense potential, as today's travellers are more informed, experience-driven and willing to explore beyond conventional choices.

The 69th TAAI Convention in Kolkata is especially significant as we celebrate 75 years of excellence, leadership and service to the industry. I look forward to meaningful networking, knowledge sharing and stronger collaboration among members and industry stakeholders. Hosting the Convention in India also reinforces our commitment to Incredible India. I hope this gathering creates new business opportunities, strengthens member engagement and provides the travel fraternity with a clear vision for the next chapter of India's travel and tourism industry.



Hina Sheeraz

Chairperson, TAAI Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand Chapter

India's outbound tourism market remains strong, diverse and increasingly experience-driven. Travellers are moving beyond sightseeing to seek meaningful experiences, wellness, luxury, family holidays, celebrations and cultural exploration. Short-haul destinations across Southeast Asia and the Middle East, along with established Eu-

ropean markets, will continue attracting interest, particularly those offering good connectivity and seamless visa processes.

Families, women-only groups, millennials, Gen Z, luxury travellers and MICE groups are emerging as key growth segments. Wellness, culinary journeys, cruises, personalised itineraries and curated group travel will drive demand.

I look forward to the TAAI Convention in Kolkata as a platform for networking, knowledge sharing and collaboration.



Amit Navlani

Hon. Secretary / Incoming Chairman (2026-2028), TAAI MP & CG Chapter; Co-founder, Travel Solutions

India's outbound tourism market continues to grow steadily, driven by travellers seeking safe, seamless and experience-led holidays. The UAE is witnessing renewed interest due to its world-class infrastructure, attractive offer-

ings and ease of travel, while Vietnam, Japan and Central Asia are gaining momentum. Direct flight connectivity has become an important deciding factor for travellers choosing international destinations.

Family holidays, FITs and premium experiential travel are expected to drive growth in the coming months, with travel agents offering personalised and thoughtfully curated journeys benefiting the most.

As TAAI celebrates 75 glorious years, I look forward to meeting industry leaders, airline heads, tourism boards and fellow travel professionals at the Kolkata Convention.



Irshad Hazari

Chairman-Elect | TAAI J&K Chapter Term: 2026-2028

It is a great honour and privilege to be part of the 69th TAAI Convention & Exhibition, celebrating the remarkable journey, achievements and collective strength of India's travel fraternity. As TAAI marks 75 glorious years of service to the travel and tourism industry, this historic Convention offers an excellent

opportunity for members to come together, exchange ideas

and strengthen professional relationships.

As Chairman of the TAAI Jammu & Kashmir Chapter, I look forward to bringing the spirit of Kashmir to this prestigious national platform while highlighting the importance of collaboration, innovation and collective growth.

The Convention will provide valuable opportunities to foster meaningful partnerships, share industry experiences and explore new business possibilities. I hope it encourages constructive discussions on emerging opportunities and challenges facing our industry. Together, through stronger relationships and shared knowledge, we can work towards building a more sustainable, resilient and globally competitive tourism industry



Pradeep Kumar Rai

Secretary, TAAI Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand Chapter

I am proud and excited to be part of the 69th TAAI Convention & Exhibition – Indian Travel Congress 2026 in Kolkata, as we celebrate 75 glorious years of TAAI. This landmark occasion represents an extraordinary journey of excellence,

leadership, unity and dedicated service to India's travel and tourism industry. The Convention is not merely an opportunity to look back at our achievements but also an important platform to shape the future of Indian travel and tourism.



Jay Bhatia

Director, Tulsidas Khimji Holidays

Indian outbound travel remains resilient, although the Middle East crisis continues to affect travel to the region and parts of Europe. We see promising opportunities in Japan, South Korea, Australia, the Indian Ocean and increasingly Africa, which remains rela-

tively unexplored by Indian travellers. Luxury FITs, families and younger experiential travellers will drive growth, with greater demand for personalised and longer holidays. Improving direct connectivity will support this growth, although visa processing extending beyond 12-15 days remains a concern.

As TAAI celebrates 75 years of leadership, representation and collective strength, the Kolkata Convention should honour our legacy while looking firmly towards the future. TAAI Conventions have consistently set high standards through forward-looking knowledge sessions and valuable member networking. I look forward to discussions on how AI can empower travel businesses and stimulate growth, while strengthening our collective voice with the Government, IATA and industry stakeholders on necessary reforms and emerging challenges.



Harmandeep Singh Anand
Managing Director, Jagsons Travels,
Nagpur; Co-founder, Global Panorama
Showcase (GPS)

India's outbound tourism market remains resilient, increasingly driven by Tier-II and Tier-III cities such as Nagpur, where first-time international travellers and aspirational families are fuelling demand. Short-haul destinations including Vietnam, Thailand, Dubai, Bali and

Sri Lanka continue attracting travellers through value offerings and easier visa processes, while Japan, Central Asia and Europe are gaining popularity among experiential travellers.

Weddings, MICE and luxury travel remain strong segments. Improved air connectivity and wider access to NDC-driven fares will further accelerate growth.

Kolkata, as a gateway to eastern India, is a fitting Convention destination. I expect meaningful discussions on airline distribution and commissions, GST and TCS compliance, and visa facilitation. Stronger engagement with government, airlines and tourism boards should deliver actionable outcomes. The Convention must also equip members, particularly smaller agencies, with technology and skills to compete effectively, while reinforcing TAAI's collective voice and unity.



Rajendra Akolkar
Hon. Secretary, TAAI Vidarbha Chapter;
Destinations Travel & Vacation
Planners, Nagpur

India's outbound tourism market is booming, fuelled by rising disposable incomes, improved air connectivity and simplified visa policies. Growth over the coming months will be driven by short-haul destinations across Southeast Asia and the Mid-

dle East, alongside Europe. Luxury experiential travel, family holidays, high-spending MICE groups and younger travellers seeking offbeat destinations and immersive cultural experiences will continue to generate strong demand.

However, rising airfares and hotel tariffs remain major challenges for the travel trade, affecting affordability and travel planning. As TAAI celebrates its 75th anniversary at the 69th Convention in Kolkata, I look forward to actionable insights on AI integration, sustainable tourism and changing consumer behaviour.

Ln. S.P. Rajendran
Chairman, TAAI South Tamil Nadu Chapter

Practically speaking, outbound tourism from India has declined considerably due to exceptionally high domestic and international airfares, reduced flight frequencies and operational viability challenges faced by airlines. However, I am hopeful that the upcoming holiday seasons will revive demand and encourage airlines to increase flight operations.



Travellers have already started enquiring about Christmas, New Year and summer vacations beginning April 2027. Within India, destinations such as the Northeastern states, Leh, Ladakh, Kashmir, the Golden Triangle, Rajasthan and Gujarat are attracting interest. Internationally, travellers are considering Southeast Asian countries, particularly Vietnam and Cambodia, along with China and Europe. The 69th TAAI Convention in Kolkata promises to be a memorable gathering as we celebrate 75 years of our association.

Sameer Baktoo
Chairman TAAI J&K Chapter



It is a matter of immense pride and privilege to join the celebrations of 75 glorious years of TAAI, a remarkable journey built on vision, dedication, collaboration and an enduring commitment to India's travel and tourism industry. The 69th TAAI Convention, being held from October 25-27, 2026, at ITC Royal Bengal, Kolkata, is an opportunity to celebrate our collective achievements and acknowledge the people who have contributed towards making TAAI a strong and respected voice of the Indian travel trade.

As Chairman of the TAAI Jammu & Kashmir Chapter, I am delighted to be part of this landmark occasion. I look forward to connecting with members, colleagues, industry partners and friends from Jammu & Kashmir and across the country.



Aletta Dias
General Manager - India, BCD
Travel

My heartiest congratulations to TAAI on the remarkable milestone of its 69th Convention & Exhibition, particularly as the association celebrates 75 glorious years of service to India's travel and tourism industry. Over the decades, TAAI has

played a pivotal role in shaping the industry, strengthening relationships among stakeholders and providing a collective platform for travel professionals across the country.

It is an honour to be part of this journey and celebrate such an important achievement alongside industry colleagues, partners and fellow travel professionals.

I look forward to engaging discussions, meaningful networking opportunities and the exchange of fresh ideas that can contribute to the continued growth and development of our industry. **BOTT**

Indian Outbound Travel 2026

Resilience, reinvention and the road ahead

India's outbound travel story in 2026 is being shaped by resilience, sharper traveller preferences and a clear shift towards experience-led journeys. From luxury, MICE and destination weddings to multigenerational holidays and emerging destinations, demand is evolving rapidly. **BOTT** spoke to more than 40 leading industry professionals — including representation and country leaders, travel agents, tour operators and specialists — to decode the year so far and the trends set to drive the next phase of Indian outbound travel.

Compiled by Gunjan Sabikhi, Priyanka Saxena Ray & Shreya Shimpi



Isha Goyal
CEO, STIC Travel Group

2026 has been another year of volatility for the industry, and STIC has been no exception. The West Asia crisis has affected both flight schedules and fuel costs, making it a year of uncertainty and quick pivots. Even so, it has been a year of growth. We onboarded two significant partnerships, Philippine Airlines and Scenic Group River Cruising, strengthening our presence across aviation and premium travel. Philippine Airlines' new flights from Mumbai and Delhi to Manila, launching this December, are a milestone we're especially excited about. We have also continued building our cruise business, which is seeing strong traction as Indian travellers increasingly seek experiential and premium holidays. Diversification has been a key priority. The market has moved beyond simply selling a destination or a ticket.

Over the next 6–12 months, I expect Indian outbound travel to become even more experience-led, with travellers valuing depth of experience over ticking off destinations. Ease of access, connectivity, visa convenience and perceived value will continue to shape destination choices, supporting demand across Asia, including Japan, Southeast Asia and other well-connected short- and medium-haul markets. New direct connectivity, such as India–Manila, will also bring destinations like the Philippines firmly into consideration. We also see significant opportunity in premium and luxury travel, where personalisation, privacy, wellness, culinary experiences and curated itineraries are becoming central. Cruise is another segment to watch closely.

Sandeep Dwivedi
Managing Director,
Amadeus South Asia



2026 has been a year of encouraging momentum for Amadeus. We are seeing a clear shift in travel from simply being digital to becoming more intelligent, connected and personalised. This is reflected in strong traction across AI, NDC and modern airline retailing, hospitality and data-driven solutions. AI is increasingly part of the everyday travel experience, helping travellers discover and plan, enabling personalised offers and supporting businesses with smarter operations. We also continue to see momentum around NDC, richer airline content and expanding hospitality capabilities.

Over the next 6–12 months, I think the story will be less about one destination and more about how Indian travellers choose to travel. Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia, along with Japan and South Korea, is seeing strong interest. Shorter journeys, easier visas, better connectivity and value are increasingly important. Domestic travel will remain buoyant around wellness, adventure, culture and leisure. Experiential, personalised and technology-enabled travel will grow further, with AI influencing discovery, planning and booking. The opportunity is to understand travellers better and create a more connected journey around them.



Markus Tan

Regional Director - India, Middle East, South Asia, and Africa (IMESA), Singapore Tourism Board

India's performance in the first half of 2026 reflects the continued strength of the market, with visitor arrivals crossing 600,000 and tourism receipts reaching S\$374 million in Q1 2026, an 8% year-on-year increase. This is particularly encouraging given the broader headwinds facing travel

and reflects the strong relationships we have built with Indian travellers, airline partners and the travel trade fraternity over the years. Our focus remains on deepening these partnerships, giving travellers new reasons to choose Singapore and encouraging first-time visitors to discover the destination.

Looking ahead, MICE and cruise remain important areas of opportunity, supported by the continued growth of business events and Singapore's expanding cruise offering. This opens new possibilities across corporate incentives, multigenerational travel and milestone celebrations. We are also seeing growing interest among Millennials and Gen Z in music, nightlife, food, culture and lifestyle.



Rohit Shorey

Founder & CEO
Kazin DMC

2026 has been a defining year for Kazin DMC. The conflict involving Iran and resulting airspace closures disrupted travel plans across the region and tested how our industry operates. For us, it became an opportunity to rethink how Kazin supports its partners — planning with greater flexibility, responding faster when

circumstances change and building a business that can adapt without compromising the traveller's experience. That thinking has shaped our growth. The opening of our Belgium office has strengthened our international reach, while we continue to deepen products and partnerships across Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Belarus. We are seeing encouraging interest in incentive travel, luxury journeys and tailor-made leisure.

I expect Indian travellers to continue exploring destinations that offer something distinctive without compromising on comfort or ease of travel. Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Georgia are well placed to meet that demand. Premium leisure, incentive travel and experience-led groups are key opportunities, along with journeys built around heritage, cuisine, landscapes, celebrations and corporate groups. Better connectivity and simpler travel formalities will help convert interest into bookings, but trade education and deeper product development will remain equally important for sustained growth.

Haryanty Abu Bakar

Director (Western and Central India, Maldives), Malaysia Tourism Promotion Board



2026 has been an exciting year for Tourism Malaysia in India as we strengthen engagement with the travel trade and expand beyond major metropolitan markets. We have placed greater emphasis on Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, while deepening partnerships with airlines, tour operators, travel agencies, media and other stakeholders. We are also seeing stronger interest beyond Kuala Lumpur, including Penang, Langkawi, Sabah and Sarawak. Leisure remains a key driver, alongside family travel, weddings and honeymoons, MICE and incentive travel, with experiential travel showing particularly strong traction.

Over the next 6–12 months, we expect experiential, family, wedding and honeymoon travel, together with MICE and incentive tourism, to remain key opportunities from India. There is considerable potential in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where international travel demand continues to evolve. We also see strong scope to promote Malaysia beyond Kuala Lumpur through Penang, Langkawi, Sabah and Sarawak.

Sheema Vohra

Managing Director,
Sartha Global Marketing



2026 has been an interesting year for us. We have continued to build on long-standing client relationships while bringing new destinations on board. There has been steady momentum around the destinations we represent through trade engagements, partnerships and market initiatives. The response from the travel trade has been encouraging, particularly towards newer experiences and products, with partners exploring what more can be offered to the Indian traveller. These conversations have helped us understand changing market preferences, strengthen our clients' positioning and develop partnerships.

Indian travellers are becoming more selective about vacations, with demand for personalised itineraries built around their interests. We see good potential in FIT travel, road trips, experience-led holidays, live events and sports-led travel. Repeat travel is another area, as travellers increasingly explore new destinations within countries they have visited. Luxury is also being defined differently, extending beyond hotels to fine dining, culture and immersive local experiences. Family travel will remain important, especially for memories and holidays together. The opportunity is to incorporate these changing preferences into well-designed itineraries that give travellers stronger reasons to choose a destination.



Pranav Kapadia
Founder and Director, Global Destinations

2026 has been a year of two very different halves for us. We started strongly, with a successful OTM followed by our three-city Global Destinations roadshow, and were looking ahead to ITB. The geopolitical situation then changed the environment dramatically, with uncertainty around international travel putting several projects and campaigns on hold. Our focus has been on strengthening existing partnerships, sharpening destination and product propositions and staying close to trade and media partners. Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Vietnam and

Cambodia have performed well, while Laos is showing early traction among discerning travellers.

The summer season was significantly impacted, so the coming months will be important for recovering lost business. Pent-up demand from travellers who postponed plans means the festive and year-end season should support stronger enquiries across high-value leisure, luxury, family and experiential travel. Indian travellers are becoming more discerning, seeking personal, immersive and meaningful experiences. Experiential luxury, curated FITs, multigenerational and special-interest travel should benefit, particularly where destinations offer distinctive experiences, accessibility and strong value. The larger opportunity is to move from volume to value through differentiated experiences.



Neeti Sharma
Director, Intrepid Marketing and Communications

2026 has been a year of exciting growth for Intrepid Marketing and Communications. We expanded our portfolio by onboarding Bahrain Tourism & Exhibition Authority and winning projects for Sarawak Tourism, Sri Lanka Tourism and PromPeru, while strengthening existing partnerships. It has also been a busy year on the ground, with trade roadshows, wedding planner events and PR engagements for clients including Morocco, Ajman, Sun Siyam and JanDec. We organised Mega FAM trips for media and trade to Morocco and Sun Siyam Maldives. OTM, SATTE and ITB India were key highlights, helping us connect with new partners.

Looking ahead, the ongoing conflict in West Asia will continue to shape travel decisions from India, particularly around air connectivity, fares and destination choice. Interest is shifting towards Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Japan and other parts of Southeast and East Asia. Experience-led and personalised travel will gain momentum, with wellness, multigenerational holidays, luxury, weddings and celebrations, culinary and cultural experiences, and MICE attracting demand. Travellers are also seeking slower, more meaningful holidays, creating opportunities for flexible offerings, stronger regional connectivity and lesser-known destinations.

Pranay Nath
Founder & CEO, I Love Japan DMC

2026 has been a year of consolidation, expansion and strengthening our operational capabilities. At Via East DMC, we brought our destination expertise across Japan, South Korea and Taiwan under a unified brand, enabling us to offer travel partners a more integrated destination management solution. Japan continues to see strong traction, while South Korea is gaining momentum as our Seoul operations strengthen our on-ground capabilities. Taiwan is also an established part of our portfolio. We have expanded our B2B network and strengthened offerings across FIT, groups, luxury travel, MICE, golf and educational tours, while continuing to focus on destination expertise and reliable ground services.

Over the next 6–12 months, we see considerable opportunities in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan as Indian travellers increasingly explore beyond conventional holiday circuits. Japan should remain strong across seasonal travel, premium FIT, family holidays and educational groups, while South Korea offers opportunities through popular culture, shopping, lifestyle and experiential travel. Taiwan also has potential for distinctive cultural and leisure experiences. Luxury travel, customised itineraries, MICE, golf and educational travel should remain important growth areas, alongside demand for seamless destination management, authentic experiences, dependable ground handling and personalised services.





Vasudha Sondhi
Managing Director, Outbound Marketing

2026 has been a positive and encouraging year for us. Indian outbound travel continues to show strong momentum, translating into healthy growth across our representation portfolio. We began the year on a high, while the second quarter was slower. From the third quarter onwards, we have seen a strong upswing in corporate incentives, FIT

luxury travel and wedding enquiries for the last quarter and early 2027. Melia has added properties across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa; Jumeirah has announced new openings; Corinthia has opened properties in Europe; and our Boutique Collection has added properties in Asia.

Looking ahead, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka will continue to see strong growth, with Europe following. Africa is also growing, while the UAE should pick up. Discerning travellers are exploring lesser-known regions for culinary experiences, sporting events, wellness, adventure and life-changing experiences. Luxury travel, MICE and weddings or celebrations will continue to lead growth, while mid-market travel should also pick up. The industry should focus on distinctive, story-led experiences for the next phase of growth and differentiation.



Huzan Fraser Motivala
Partner, Beautiful Planet Destination Mktg

2026 has been a positive year for Beautiful Planet, with continued growth across our destination portfolio. We have strengthened existing partnerships and seen strong traction in luxury travel, experiential tourism, MICE, influencer-led campaigns and integrated PR. Our work with destinations including Visit Victoria, Melbourne Convention Bureau, Tourism Ireland and AlUla has also expanded through stronger media, trade and consumer engagement.

Over the next 6–12 months, we expect luxury and experiential travel, wellness, MICE and longer-haul destinations to continue driving demand from India. Travellers are increasingly looking for unique, personalized and immersive experiences, rather than conventional sightseeing. We see an emerging trend for people travelling for sporting events like the Australian Open and special events like food and wine. Destinations that offer easy connectivity, distinctive experiences and strong value for the Indian traveller will be well placed to capture this growing demand.

Over the next 6–12 months, we expect luxury and experiential travel, wellness, MICE and longer-haul destinations to continue driving demand from India. Travellers are increasingly looking for unique, personalized and immersive experiences, rather than conventional sightseeing. We see an emerging trend for people travelling for sporting events like the Australian Open and special events like food and wine. Destinations that offer easy connectivity, distinctive experiences and strong value for the Indian traveller will be well placed to capture this growing demand.

Lubaina Sheerazi
CEO & Co-founder, BRANDit



2026 has been an interesting year for us because, despite a complex travel environment, the appetite for India from international tourism and hospitality brands remains strong. We added Auckland Convention Bureau to our destination representation portfolio and Royal Savoy Hotel and Spa Lausanne to our hospitality portfolio, while expanding work with existing partners. Client conversations have also evolved. Briefs are rarely about PR or trade in isolation; there is greater understanding that media, trade, content, partnerships, influencers and consumer engagement must work together. This has opened more strategic mandates and reflects a maturing market where India is viewed as a long-term investment.

Looking ahead, regional markets will become increasingly important as outbound growth moves beyond metros. Weddings, celebrations, business events, family holidays, wellness, sport, culture and other special interests are creating opportunities. Short and medium-haul destinations will benefit from easier visas, stronger connectivity and value, while long-haul travel will increasingly be driven by purpose, aspiration and meaningful experiences. For destinations, one India strategy will no longer be enough; understanding the traveller, origin market and motivation will matter just as much.

Paramjit S. Bawa
Founder & Principal, Auxilia Networks



It has been a mixed year. The Middle East conflict affected travel drastically to the west and obliterated travel to the Middle East, with the trade losing the summer peak outbound season, particularly to Europe. Encouragingly, enquiries are reviving for the last quarter of 2026 and into summer 2027. At Auxilia, we strengthened our Association vertical by signing with the Nordic Tourism Collective, alongside the European Tourism Association, ETOA. We also signed leading tour operators in Iceland/Nordics and North Queensland, Australia. Australian Attractions Pty. Ltd. was restructured into ICON!Q Experiences.

Looking ahead, leisure travel is shifting from location-based to experiential, with sports, wellness, culinary, soft adventure and religious travel gaining importance. Cruise is seeing strong growth, particularly in the Nordics, Alaska and Southeast Asia, while India's cruise demand remains at an embryonic stage with significant potential. Short, punchy and impactful messaging across social media and WhatsApp is increasingly important.



Alefiya Singh
Founder & Director, IRIS Reps

The Indian traveller has become much more informed. You cannot sell them a pretty picture anymore — the product has to deliver. Over the next 6–12 months, I see strong opportunities in experience-led travel, family and multi-generational holidays, FIT and MICE, but the bigger shift is in how people are choosing their holidays.

We are seeing strong interest in emerging destinations offering fresh experiences. Egypt stands out as a key opportunity, while Tanzania is another market to watch through our tie-up with Riksha Travels as interest in East African wildlife and nature escapes grows. Luxury charter boat experiences with Prive Seychelles also present a strong proposition for high-end experiential travel. In times to come, cruising and soft adventure will continue to grow. Paradise Vietnam is a good example, where the cruise itself becomes the experience. The Maldives will remain important, but privacy, lifestyle, water sports, wellness and experiences will matter as much as luxury.

For IRIS Reps, the focus will be on going deeper with the right products and ensuring PR, sales and marketing work towards the same commercial objective — visibility that moves the business.



Beena Menon
India Representative
Visit Victoria

Year 2026 has been a positive and dynamic year for us, with continued growth across our destinations - Ireland, Melbourne - Victoria, and AlUla. We have focused strongly on expanding trade engagement through new partnerships, training, sales missions and targeted marketing initiatives, while also strengthening our presence across regional markets in India.

We are seeing particularly strong interest in experiential, premium and luxury travel, with travellers increasingly looking for more personalised itineraries and unique experiences. There has also been growing interest in regional travel, self-drive, food and wine, wellness and major events, particularly for destinations such as Victoria. We expect experiential and personalised travel to remain key drivers of Indian outbound travel over the next 6–12 months. Luxury is also evolving beyond traditional five-star travel, with greater demand for privacy, wellness, gastronomy, exclusive experiences and curated itineraries. Emerging destinations such as AlUla, alongside established long-haul markets such as Ireland and Australia, have strong potential for Indian travellers.



Noel Saxena,
CEO & Founder, BlinkBrand Solutions

2026 has been a year of consolidation as well as expansion for BlinkBrand Solutions. We have strengthened our existing destination mandates while adding significant new business, including the Bhutan Tourism Board, with a mandate covering India and Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Our portfolio across destinations such as Taiwan, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan and Sabah has generated strong engagement with the Indian travel trade and press. The strongest traction has come from destination marketing, PR and trade engagement, with increasing demand for integrated campaigns be that be B2B outreach, unique curated events, mega roadshows or familiarisation programmes.

Over the next 6–12 months, we expect Southeast Asia to remain a major growth engine, particularly destinations offering easy access, strong connectivity, and competitive value. Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand are well placed, while destinations like Japan and South Korea should also attract well healed Indian visitors. We also see considerable potential in emerging Central Asian markets like Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, Bhutan and the Middle East as connectivity, access and market confidence grow. Beyond destinations, the bigger opportunity lies in changing traveller behaviour: premiumisation, experiential and luxury travel, MICE, multi-generational holidays.



Tekla Maira
Founder, And The Story Continues

2026 has been a strong year for And the Story Continues, with our portfolio growing through new clients, particularly from Europe and the subcontinent. Our Dubai business was impacted as the regional situation disrupted flights, while travel to the west was also affected because Middle East carriers are preferred by luxury travellers. Things are moving towards normalcy and travel is picking up for this quarter and the next. We have deepened existing partnerships, with hotel partners visiting the market and returning positive about the rest of the year.

Looking ahead, we expect Asia to remain strong, while sentiment for Europe is positive as travellers reschedule trips affected by disruptions or high fares. Azerbaijan and Eastern Europe should remain popular, while visa-free destinations will continue attracting Indians. Dubai demand should return as connectivity recovers. Hotels across Asia and Japan are also showing interest in the Indian market. Milestone celebrations, multigenerational family travel and corporate groups remain important.



Lavin Dhansinghani
Co-Founder & Director, Voyage 1 DMC

2026 has been a year of growth, consolidation and expansion for us. At Voyage 1 DMC, we have focused on strengthening our destination network and building a more integrated DMC platform for the international travel trade. This year, we expanded across Dubai, Almaty, Baku, Georgia, Japan, Vietnam, Kenya and South Africa, while developing new local partnerships and strengthening B2B relationships in key source markets. We have seen particularly strong traction in FIT, premium travel, MICE and customised group movements, alongside growing demand for experiential and value-driven itineraries rather than traditional sightseeing packages. Our focus remains on competitive, reliable and locally managed products through a single DMC network.

Over the next 6–12 months, I expect Indian outbound travel to become more diverse, with Central Asia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Japan, Vietnam and Africa offering strong opportunities. Premium FIT, family travel, MICE, destination celebrations and experiential holidays should remain important growth segments. Travellers are becoming more informed and are seeking personalised itineraries, authentic local experiences, better service and flexibility. For the industry, stronger destination partnerships and seamless end-to-end DMC services will be key, combining competitive pricing, quality, local expertise and quick response with deeper collaboration between Indian travel companies and international DMCs.

Arjun Mukund
Director Tourism, T&A Consulting
(Official representative of Tourism Western Australia, Marina Bay Sands Singapore, Sands China's Resort Macao in India)



2026 has been a year of strategic growth and sharper focus on measurable outcomes. At T&A Consulting, our portfolio spans destination marketing and hospitality, including Tourism Western Australia, Marina Bay Sands and Sands Macao, giving us visibility across the travel ecosystem. India remains a significant growth market, with 32.83 million international departures in 2025, up 6.3% year-on-year, and leisure accounting for 43.5% of departures. Across our portfolio, the strongest traction has been in B2B partnerships, travel trade engagement, luxury, experiential travel, MICE and integrated consumer campaigns. We are also seeing a clear shift towards quality of demand. For Tourism Western Australia for example, Indian visitors generated A\$142 million in spend in the year ending March 2026, with average spend of around A\$2,864 per visitor.

We expect the next phase of Indian outbound travel to be driven by increasingly diverse traveller segments rather than a single destination trend. Travellers are also taking more flexible, shorter breaks, with Agoda's 2026 outlook putting the average Indian trip at 4–7 days. Among Gen Z, 73% plan one to six trips a year, indicating a shift towards more frequent, experience-led travel.

Across our accounts, we see continued potential in luxury, family and multi-generational travel, MICE, experiential holidays and short-haul premium breaks. For Tourism Western Australia, connectivity and year-round appeal remain critical.



Hemant Mediratta
Founder & CEO, One Rep Global

2026 has been the year our thesis started to prove itself. We set out to build density and reach across regions and categories that matter most to Indian luxury travellers, and the results are showing. Across our Sales and Integrated Marketing divisions, we added a new account every ten days. Our roster now includes AYANA Hospitality, Regent Bali Canggu, COMO Point Yamu, COMO Uma Paro and Uma Punakha, Jetwing Hotels Luxury Reserves, Mitsis Group Hotels and Airlles Collection. Being named Official Partner for ILTM India puts us at the table where global luxury travel sets its agenda.

Over the next 6–12 months, I expect Indian outbound travel to become more personal, experience-led and purpose-driven. Geopolitical turmoil will influence destination choices, making flexible booking, advisory and travel insurance more important. I am watching MICE and destination weddings, wellness and longevity, culinary and cultural travel, adventure, nature-based experiences and multigenerational holidays. The luxury traveller wants access and authenticity. For brands, the opportunity is to build a real India ecosystem through deeper trade relationships, curated experiences and media and creator partnerships.



Sara Sodhi Juneja
Founder & CEO, Sara Consulting Services

2026 has been a strong year of growth and portfolio expansion for Sara Consulting Services, particularly across Finnish Lapland. We deepened our partnership with Visit Rovaniemi and continued working with Strawberry/Nordic Hotels & Resorts, Apukka Resort and Eckerrö Line. We also added Halo Igloos Rovaniemi, Arcora Boutique Hotel & Villas and Wilderness Hotels Finland, bringing distinctive luxury, wilderness and experiential products into our portfolio. A major highlight was our Finland-India Tourism Showcase, which brought 22

Finnish tourism partners to Mumbai, Ahmedabad and New Delhi, the biggest tourism delegation ever from Finland.

Over the next 6-12 months, I expect experiential and personalised luxury travel to be a key driver from India. Affluent travellers increasingly seek privacy, exclusivity, authentic experiences and distinctive accommodation rather than conventional sightseeing.

I see strong potential for the Nordics and Arctic Europe, especially Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland. Within Finland, the opportunity is to develop Lapland beyond Christmas and the Northern Lights through summer and autumn wilderness, wellness, gastronomy and slow travel. Quiet luxury will also grow, alongside UHNI, multigenerational, celebration, private family, MICE and incentive travel.



Sucheta Nagpal
Director & CEO, Travstarz

2026 has been a year of adaptation and consolidation for us. The outbound market has navigated high airfares, geopolitical uncertainty and cautious consumer spending, but we have also seen a recovery in travel intent. At Travstarz, our B2B business remains the core driver, with FITs, groups, MICE and experiential travel showing encouraging demand. We have expanded our focus across Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Sri Lanka and the Philippines while strengthening DMC and supplier partnerships. Business from India's Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets is increasing, with agents becoming more confident in selling holidays.

Over the next 6-12 months, Indian outbound travel should become more experience-led, diversified and geographically broader. Japan and South Korea have significant potential, while Egypt continues to benefit from history, cruising and relatively strong value. Experiential FITs, small groups, MICE, destination weddings and premium family travel will remain important, with travellers willing to spend more for differentiated experiences. Tier 2, 3 and 4 cities are among the industry's biggest opportunities. Technology will support this growth, but relationships, destination knowledge and personalised service will remain critical.

Deepika Khanna

Founder and CEO, Anchor Destination
General Secretary - ETAA North India Chapter

2026 has been another year reminding us that consistency, patience, responsive service and added knowledge skills bring you back into business, even when circumstances such as war affect the overall situation. We remained consistent with our approach of selling destination experiences rather than just packages. Our personalised approach with clients and vendors has led to stronger bonding and relationships. Despite high airfares, we have seen particular traction in Europe, with visas processed in Q2 and travel scheduled for Q3. Maldives, Mauritius, Hong Kong, Finland, Sri Lanka and Singapore have remained among the top destinations. Our DMC and B2B wholesale business has also gained momentum.

Looking ahead, hassle-free visa and short-haul destinations such as Maldives, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Hong Kong and Thailand should continue to do well, alongside experiential travel to Australia, Iceland, Finland, Scandinavia and Europe. Self-drive experiences in New Zealand, Mauritius and Iceland are gaining huge momentum. Cruise experiences to Alaska and Antarctica expeditions are seeing client's pre-book at least eight to nine months in advance. Overall, watch out for offbeat and unique experiences to offer clients.





Himanshu Patil
President, OTOAI

2026 has been a year of both challenges and opportunities for us. The geopolitical situation, ongoing war conditions and the impact on the Middle East have influenced travel sentiment and destination demand, requiring us to remain agile and responsive. At the same time, Indian outbound travel has shown strong resilience. Japan, China, Malaysia,

Vietnam, Southeast Asia and Africa have delivered good numbers from India. Travellers are increasingly looking beyond conventional sightseeing towards premium accommodation, wellness, gastronomy, soft adventure and meaningful cultural experiences. Our focus has been on strengthening our destination portfolio and deepening international partnerships.

Over the next 6–12 months, I see strong potential across experiential luxury, family and multigenerational travel, wellness, cruises, celebrations, soft adventure and special-interest journeys. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and parts of Europe are well placed, while Asia will benefit from accessibility, connectivity and diverse experiences. Luxury is increasingly about personalisation, privacy, access and experiences rather than hotel price or category. Emerging destinations will gain interest, while technology and AI will influence discovery and planning.



Alpa Jani
CEO & Founder, Ace Connect

2026 has been a year of resilience, consolidation and renewed momentum for Ace Connect. The geopolitical situation created uncertainty, affecting traveller confidence and slowing demand for several destinations early in the year. Morocco and South Africa saw a temporary slowdown, but enquiries and bookings are picking up. Seychelles has remained

a strong short-haul favourite for Indian travellers, for honeymoons and family holidays. A milestone was our work with Uganda Tourism on its first India roadshow. We also strengthened our portfolio after Ace Connect was appointed India sales and marketing representative for Wild Horizons, focusing on Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Over the next 6–12 months, experiential and luxury travel will continue to evolve. Luxury will increasingly mean space to slow down and reconnect, with privacy, personalisation, authenticity and connection with people and place shaping this definition. Advance planning for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia presents opportunities to combine cricket with safaris, Victoria Falls and immersive Southern African experiences.

Irshad Dadan

Founder / Managing Director (Global)
One Above Global DMC Network



2026 has been a year of consolidation for One Above, bringing scale and structure to a network already growing fast. Our merger with Adi Holidays brought Masroor Ahmad Khan's UAE operation directly into the group, strengthening our contracting base across the Gulf alongside our depth in Africa, Central Asia and the Far East. We added dedicated packages around calendar-anchored demand, such as Hong Kong's Diwali and Halloween window alongside the Cricket Sixes. The strongest traction has come from our white-label model, while Get It Fast has grown alongside it, with visa and insurance turnaround becoming a deciding factor for agents.

Looking ahead, I'd watch three things. First, event-anchored travel, where agents build trips around fixed dates rather than seasons. Second, airfare-led substitution, pushing demand towards Central Asia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and East Africa. Third, the maturing of Tier-2 and Tier-3 agents, who now expect metro-level rate access. The deeper shift is consolidation. Global ground supply remains fragmented, and businesses that organise it into something agents can transact on instantly will define the industry's next phase.

Shubhangi Chitre
Director, BTFL Travel



2026 has been a year of evolution and consolidation for BTFL Travel. Our focus has been on building the right partnerships, strengthening existing markets and creating deeper engagement with the Indian travel trade. We expanded our portfolio with Antica Experience, a Morocco luxury DMC, and Down Under Connect Australia DMC, while continuing to strengthen Morocco, Hong Kong & China, Europe and South Africa through our partnerships. We are seeing strong traction across Morocco, Hong Kong & China and experiential Europe, alongside growing enquiries for luxury FITs, MICE, destination weddings and special-interest travel.

Looking ahead, I believe the next 6–12 months will see a stronger shift from destination-led to experience-led travel. Indian travellers increasingly want authentic, immersive and personalised experiences. Europe, Japan, Korea, Australia, Africa and the Middle East should remain strong, while lesser-explored regions, slow travel, wellness, luxury FITs, MICE and destination celebrations offer significant potential. Tier 2 and Tier 3 India will also be an important growth engine.



Manoj Samuel
CEO & Director, Riya Travel & Tours

2026 has been a year of growth for us in market presence and outbound travel opportunities. We have built on collaborations with the Saudi Tourism Board, Azerbaijan Airlines, Lufthansa, ITA Airways and Rail Europe. Air travel continues to be our strongest suit. With more travel partners moving towards NDC, we integrated our chatbot ASK RIYA for quick assistance, followed by a centralised WhatsApp number. We strengthened our footprint through new offices in Riyadh and the Philippines. Another milestone was bringing Riya Connect to the UAE and wider Middle East, with its relaunch at ATM 2026.

Indian outbound travel continues to diversify. Kazakhstan, Vietnam and the Caucasus are seeing strong leisure interest, while the UAE, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore continue to perform well. Saudi Arabia is emerging as a promising destination. Vietnam and Malaysia have grown strongly, supported by easier visas and affordable connectivity. Georgia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan are attractive alternatives to the traditional European circuit. Travelers increasingly seek accessibility, value, unique experiences and simpler visa processes. Technology will play a larger role in how travel is bought and managed, but human expertise, guidance and reassurance will remain equally important.

Jay R. Bhatia
Director, Tulsidas Khimji Holidays



2026 began positively for us before the Middle East crisis disrupted travel sentiment in the latter part of the first quarter. Interestingly, the uncertainty reinforced the relevance of trusted travel professionals. Clients turned to us for real-time airline updates, alternative routings and guidance on changing destinations. While the Middle East and parts of Europe were impacted, we saw stronger interest in the Indian Ocean islands, Japan and South Korea. Travellers are considering longer, experience-led holidays. Luxury and personalised FIT travel continue to show strong traction, especially self-drive and chauffeur-driven journeys, premium accommodation and curated local experiences.

Looking ahead, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, Australia and Seychelles look promising, while experiential Europe will evolve. Improved connectivity and easier visa access will open opportunities across Asia. Winter and ski holidays are gaining interest, with Courchevel and the Swiss Alps appealing to Indians beyond traditional European itineraries. Geopolitical stability, safety, direct air connectivity, visa facilitation and value will influence choices. Tourism boards that engage with the Indian trade, support destination education, simplify visas and provide reliable local assistance through reputed DMCs will have a distinct advantage.



Varun Sarda
Co-Founder, DMC Bazaar

2026 has been a year of expansion for DMCBAZAAR, both in scale and geography. We now work with 7,000+ travel agencies across India, the Middle East and Africa, expanding across the USA, Hong Kong, Japan, Philippines, Eastern Europe, Taiwan, China and Central Asia. We also added 100+ global supply partnerships across hotels, transfers and experiences, while strengthening destination contracting. The strongest traction

has come from FIT and dynamic holidays, particularly multi-city itineraries and standalone services. Agents increasingly want to build and modify trips themselves, shaping our focus on making bookings faster and easier.

Over the next 6–12 months, I expect Vietnam and Central Asia to remain strong, Africa to grow for experiential travel, and the USA to benefit from travellers looking beyond conventional itineraries. Experiences, self-drive, safaris, sporting events and independent FIT travel should gain share. Another shift is the increasingly unbundled traveller, buying different parts of a trip at different moments. AI will make travel information abundant; access and execution will become scarce. The winners will combine technology, global inventory and human expertise to fulfil traveller needs.



Intrepid Marketing
and Communications



حكومة عجمان
Government of Ajman

دائرة السياحة والثقافة والإعلام
Department of Tourism, Culture & Media

Turn your *Ajman Sales* into Exciting Incentives.

Join the Ajman Incentive Program
and make every Booking Count.

For more details, contact



ajmanindiaincentive@ajmantcm.ae

Scan To Register





Harmandeep Singh Anand
Managing Director, Jagsons Travels

Despite global uncertainties and fluctuating airfares, 2026 has been a year of strategic expansion and resilience. We have seen extraordinary traction in high-end leisure, experiential outbound travel and multi-destination European itineraries, particularly multi-port luxury ocean cruising. We strengthened our cruise vertical while expanding B2B trade outreach across Tier-2 and Tier-3 markets. The strongest growth has come from non-metro hub cities, where high-net-worth travellers are seeking curated long-haul experiences, bespoke family holidays and premium group travel. Digital tools and tech-enabled booking solutions have also helped partners and clients navigate shifting market demands seamlessly.

Over the next 6–12 months, visa-friendly destinations across Southeast Asia, CIS and the Middle East will drive short-haul travel, alongside demand for immersive European and long-haul journeys. Experiential luxury, multigenerational family travel, MICE, and European river and ocean cruises are segments to watch. Travellers are prioritising value-added experiences, shoulder-season travel and seamless connectivity. The key opportunity lies in empowering Tier-2 and Tier-3 travel trade ecosystems with niche outbound products, robust technology and specialised training to unlock untapped potential and drive the next wave of outbound tourism growth.

Meha Vashi
Director, Nivalink Holidays

Despite geopolitical uncertainty, high airfares and changing traveller sentiment, demand for personalised international travel has remained strong among our well-travelled clientele. We have expanded our portfolio, with strong interest in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South America, South and East Africa, Antarctica and the Arctic, alongside curiosity around Kazakhstan, Oman and Eastern Europe. Luxury, wildlife, wellness, multigenerational travel and milestone celebrations have seen traction. Clients are looking beyond gateway cities for immersive experiences, distinctive stays and curated journeys. We have strengthened global partnerships through destination engagement, FAMs and product development.

Over the next 6–12 months, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, East Africa and the USA should continue attracting Indian travellers, while Kazakhstan, Oman and Eastern Europe have potential. The opportunity lies in how Indians are travelling: immersive, experience-led journeys rather than conventional sightseeing. Luxury wellness, wildlife, polar and Arctic experiences, multigenerational holidays, milestone celebrations and private journeys are gaining momentum. Travellers will increasingly explore smaller destinations and regions, while visas, connectivity and air capacity will shape demand. The industry must focus on differentiated experiences rather than simply offering more destinations.



Riaz Munshi
MD, N. Chirag

2026 has been eventful for international travel. Disruptions in West Asia affected flight connectivity and travel plans, requiring travellers and the industry to adapt quickly. We have seen interest in Finland, Australia, Japan, Africa and Antarctica, alongside Europe and Southeast Asia. We strengthened relationships with hospitality brands and preferred partner programmes, giving clients privileges and benefits. A significant development has been the launch of Somewhere Fine, our curated hotel booking platform featuring selected exceptional hotels with preferred rates and benefits. We are seeing strong interest in experience-led journeys, from Arctic travel and wildlife to expedition cruising and remote stays.

Over the next 6–12 months, we see strong potential in the Nordic region, Australia, Africa and Antarctica, alongside expedition travel, wildlife journeys and smaller luxury cruises. The hotel is playing a bigger role in deciding where people travel.

A remarkable lodge, private island, heritage property or remote retreat can start an itinerary. Clients are better informed than ever; expertise lies in knowing what is worth doing, how to put it together, and having the relationships to make it happen.



Amit Thadani

Director, Nik N Ami Travels

2026 has been a positive year for Nik N Ami Travels. Despite high airfares, geopolitical issues and changing travel patterns, we have seen steady growth. We added new clients, strengthened our destination portfolio and developed international partnerships. Our association with Aarooha World Tours & Travels in New Zealand has been an important addition. We have also seen demand for

corporate travel, MICE, group travel, cruises, luxury holidays and customised packages. Scandinavia, Iceland, Finland and Antarctica are seeing good interest, alongside Argentina, Albania, Bolivia and Courchevel. Dubai continues to be a strong market, supported by our DMC operations.

Over the next 6–12 months, we expect New Zealand, Georgia, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and Southeast Asia to remain popular. River cruises, luxury holidays, family holidays, MICE, destination weddings and customised trips should grow. Travellers increasingly want new experiences, good hotels, personalised itineraries and less crowded destinations. Better flight connectivity and simpler visa processes will support outbound travel. The key for the industry will be to offer good value, personal service and complete support from planning through the traveller's return.



Neil Patil

Founder, COO & CTO, Veena World

2026 has been a year of consolidation and expansion in equal measure at Veena World. We launched Veena World Flights, moving from a pure tour operator model into a broader travel enablement platform. We have put fresh weight behind our MICE and Corporate Tours division, running successfully for twelve years and now on a clear path to becoming

a ₹100 crore sub-brand. Group departures and outbound leisure travel have shown the strongest traction, with guest retention improving through cohort-level data analysis. Despite a testing year, Indian outbound travellers have continued prioritising experiences over deferral.

Millennial travel will be one of the strongest growth segments, and we are investing heavily here. We expect strength in accessible long-haul markets as airfares stabilise, along with demand from smaller cities where aspiration is high and international travel exposure is low. Travellers are becoming more discerning about who they book with, favouring operators who demonstrate reliability and on-ground experience over price alone. Families and multigenerational groups will remain resilient. Operators investing in retention and service infrastructure, rather than only acquisition, will benefit as sentiment recovers.

Guldeep Singh Sahni

Managing Director,
Weldon Tours & Travels



While the war had an impact on travel, there has also been a recovery. The numbers may not be very high, but the overall picture has remained stable, and we still have a quarter to go. Vietnam, Eastern and Central Europe, where visa on arrival is granted with certain valid visas, Morocco, Sri Lanka, cruises, Australia and Europe have continued to attract tourists from India. Despite the challenges through the year, travellers have remained interested in international holidays and the market has continued to move at a measured pace.

Looking ahead, let us keep our fingers crossed. If all goes well, India will once again be the most sought-after market. AI is becoming a must for every travel company, especially as Gen Z increasingly makes bookings through digital channels. Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Oman, Jordan, and Central and Eastern Europe are likely to attract Indian travellers over the next 6–12 months. The opportunity for travel companies will be to remain relevant to changing booking behaviour while continuing to offer strong destination knowledge and service.

Shravan Bhalla

Director, High Flyer



2026 is no different from 2025 for us. It has been a roller coaster ride, with periods of big movement followed by declines and cancellations. However, we remain very positive about an increase in numbers in the coming months. We have brought destination weddings back into our portfolio after stopping them during Covid and added more short-haul and long-haul destinations for repeat clients. We are revamping our website and social media, featuring new destinations and attractions for high-end clients, honeymooners and celebrations. We are also seeing strong demand for Sri Lanka, Italy, Spain and the Philippines.

Clients always look for special offers, and once airlines or hotels present lucrative deals, they tend to book well in advance. I feel destinations with new direct flights, such as Russia, Greece, the Philippines and Tanzania, along with Visa on Arrival or e-Visa destinations like Sri Lanka, Thailand and Macau, will perform well. Special airline and promotional offers should enhance business to these markets. We are also seeing increased queries for Germany, Almaty, Russia and Courchevel for winter activities and Christmas markets in December.



Shalini Bajaj
Founder, Journey N Beyond Travels

2026 has been a positive year for us. We have seen growth in highly personalised, experience-led travel, with clients increasingly seeking unique destinations and meaningful, tailor-made experiences rather than conventional itineraries. Bespoke luxury travel has shown the strongest traction, especially family and multi-generational holidays, milestone celebrations, private experiences and experiential journeys.

Repeat travellers are also looking beyond traditional luxury hotspots towards lesser-explored destinations and immersive experiences, while trusted destinations continue to perform strongly when they offer something differentiated.

Looking ahead, Southeast Asia will remain a major driver, particularly Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Sri Lanka, supported by connectivity, visas, value and strong luxury hospitality. Japan should remain strong, while South Korea, Central Asia, the Caucasus and Africa have strong potential. At the luxury end, wellness, safaris, cruises, private journeys, family and multigenerational travel, destination celebrations and special-interest journeys should perform strongly. Growth from Tier-II and Tier-III cities, expanded direct flights and demand for highly personalised, value-enriching experiences will continue shaping the Indian outbound traveller.



Sunu Mathew
Founder and CEO, C World Holidays India

Looking ahead, seasonal experiential travel is seeing unprecedented momentum, heavily propelled by younger travellers who favour authentic cultural moments over generic sightseeing. For the upcoming winter season, we are seeing immense demand for Nordic adventures across Finland, Norway and Iceland, where travellers are seeking winter wonderlands, chasing the Northern Lights and opting for immersive local stays.

At the same time, classic European festive journeys, particularly Christmas market circuits across Switzerland, Austria and Germany, are driving strong mid-to-late winter bookings. The major opportunity for travel operators lies in tailoring themed, high-experience itineraries that align with seasonal peaks. As younger Indian travellers increasingly prioritise milestone celebrations, slow travel and unique local encounters, the trade must adapt by offering flexible, narrative-driven packages rather than static holiday templates.



Rajat Sawhney
CEO, Rave Tours & Travels

2026 has been a moderate year for Rave Tours & Travels, though we have seen healthy growth in outbound travel, particularly in luxury and high-value segments. Travelers increasingly want personalised journeys, authentic experiences and flexibility rather than conventional packages. Europe has been our strongest-performing region, with Italy particularly popular, including Rome, Florence and Venice, while interest in lesser-known destinations and immersive experiences is growing. We have also expanded our focus on destination weddings and high-end FITs. Jammu & Kashmir and Rajasthan are showing potential for luxury holidays, events and weddings. Bespoke luxury travel has seen the strongest traction, with clients increasingly investing in personalised experiences.

Looking ahead, Europe should remain a key driver, particularly Italy, Spain, Switzerland and France, while destination weddings and luxury FITs continue to grow. Domestically, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Kerala offer significant opportunity across luxury leisure, weddings, events and MICE. We also see potential in inbound luxury travel to India, with enquiries and confirmations picking up. The broader opportunity is to move away from standardised packages and focus on seamless, highly personalised journeys.



Komal Seth
Founder & Director, Linkin Reps

2026 has been an exciting year of growth and expansion for Linkin Reps. We strengthened partnerships with Royal Jordanian Airlines, Royal Brunei Airlines, SriLankan Airlines, STIC Travel Group and Elivaas. A key highlight has been conducting FAM trips and destination-led engagements, bringing media, influencers and travel partners together to experience destinations and products first-hand. These initiatives strengthened destination visibility and trade engagement. Another important milestone has been the launch of Linkin South Asia DMC, our new outbound destination management vertical focusing on key Asian markets.

Over the next 6–12 months, we see strong potential in Asia and the Middle East, alongside growing interest in experience-led outbound travel. We will focus on destinations where connectivity, unique experiences and strong trade partnerships can drive demand. We are planning two FAM trips to Jordan in November and two media FAM trips to Royal Brunei. Strengthening media relationships will remain a priority.



Ajay and Hema Chhabria Founders, Intime Travels by Design

At Intime Travels, this year has been exceptionally superb. We hit a roadblock in April during the war issues, but come May, the surge was tremendous. Many travellers put their

fears at rest and returned to their travel plans with renewed confidence. The momentum has remained ever since, and we continue planning Diwali and Christmas vacations. Europe saw a slight dip, while we did exceptional work in Japan, Thailand, Bali and the Dolomites, and introduced South Korea to our clients. Demand for luxury brands has also been exceptional, with travellers upgrading hotels, transfers and vehicles.

Wellness vacations are on the rise, and we foresee significant growth, while beauty treatments in South Korea are gaining traction. Clients are extremely discerning, with dinner reservations at top places often made well in advance. Food menus, curated culinary choices, and bars and restaurants with exceptional views are now integral to itinerary planning. This may also explain why more destinations are investing in FAM trips, helping travel professionals gain deeper destination knowledge and first-hand experience so they can better curate and recommend evolving travel experiences.



Lokesh Chawla Director, Xtra Mile Travel Services

2026 has been a year of resilience, recalibration and transformation for us. Despite geopolitical uncertainties, high airfares and changing traveller sentiment, demand for outbound travel has remained encouraging, particularly for personalised FIT, premium holidays and MICE. We have continued strengthening our destination portfolio and specialist partnerships, including our Australia & New Zealand positioning, while seeing strong business from repeat and referral clients. What has been particularly interesting is how technology and AI are changing the customer journey. Travellers increasingly use AI, social media and digital platforms to research, compare and even build initial itineraries before approaching a travel professional.

The next 6–12 months will be shaped not just by where Indians travel, but by how they discover and curate travel. Japan, Vietnam, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Greece and emerging Central Asian destinations should remain relevant, alongside experiential long-haul travel, luxury family holidays, celebrations and MICE. The bigger disruption, however, is technological. Gen Z and younger travellers are increasingly using AI, VR and AR to visualise destinations, curate itineraries, compare experiences and make decisions. Technology will not replace travel professionals; travel professionals who refuse to embrace technology, however, may eventually be replaced. **BOTT**

Christine Galle Luczak Founder and CEO, Heavens Portfolio

2026 has been a year of continued growth, with several distinctive new partnerships across luxury hospitality and travel. We welcomed Ol Jogi, Castelfalfi, Fregate Island, Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH), Luxury Action, La Reserva Rotana, Jiva Hoa Lu, The Leading Trains and Virgin Limited Edition into our portfolio. This has strengthened our offering across experiential travel, wellness, safari, private islands, luxury rail and destination-led stays. Indian luxury travellers are becoming increasingly discerning, seeking authenticity, privacy, wellbeing and a genuine sense of place, while we continue strengthening media, trade and consumer engagement through curated events, roadshows and marketing activations.

Over the next 6–12 months, we expect experiential, multigenerational, wellness-led and highly personalised private holidays to remain key areas of interest from India. Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, Africa and select European destinations continue to offer opportunities, particularly for immersive experiences. We also see strong potential in culinary journeys, adventure activities and conservation-focused stays. The opportunity lies in understanding the increasingly diverse Indian luxury traveller and creating propositions around specific interests, supported by stronger destination storytelling and meaningful partnerships.



Gardens by the Bay, Singapore

Where Clouds Dance and Flowers Bloom!

Cloud Forest

At Singapore's spectacular Gardens by the Bay, nature unfolds in extraordinary ways. The magnificent Cloud Forest recreates the cool, mist-laden environment of tropical mountain forests, transporting visitors into a world of lush greenery, cascading water and remarkable biodiversity.

A breathtaking 35-metre indoor waterfall welcomes visitors, while elevated walkways wind around a towering, vegetation-covered mountain. Exotic orchids, delicate ferns, carnivorous plants and rare botanical treasures flourish in this enchanting setting. The Cloud Walk offers sweeping views, while the Secret Garden reveals fascinating species hidden within a mysterious limestone landscape.

Adding a thrilling dimension is Jurassic World: The Experience, where life-sized animatronic dinosaurs emerge amid the tropical foliage, transforming this botanical paradise into a prehistoric adventure.

Flower Dome

Just steps away, the adjoining Flower Dome presents an equally captivating experience. Recreating cool, dry climates from different corners of the world, this spectacular conservatory showcases Mediterranean landscapes, colourful flowering gardens and fascinating plant collections.

Its nine themed gardens celebrate botanical diversity, while the magnificent Flower Field hosts changing seasonal displays that transform the conservatory throughout the year.

Together, Cloud Forest and Flower Dome offer two contrasting encounters with nature: one mysterious and atmospheric, the other vibrant and sunlit. Blending imaginative architecture, horticultural excellence and immersive storytelling, these remarkable conservatories make Gardens by the Bay one of Singapore's most memorable attractions.



UTEN CELEBRATES A SUCCESSFUL TAIWAN EDUCATIONAL FAM UTEN FAM TRIP HOSTED BY TAIWAN TOURISM ADMINISTRATION



On behalf of the UTEN Founders, Winifred D'Souza and Satyaprakash Gupta, we extend our sincere appreciation to Paul from the Taiwan Tourism Administration for accompanying us throughout the tour. We feel truly fortunate and honoured to have had your company during the entire journey. We thoroughly enjoyed your presence and sincerely appreciate the excellent arrangements made for all of us. This has been an unforgettable and enriching educational trip for everyone.

A heartfelt thank you to Paul, Noel, and Nitya Mehra for giving us this opportunity and for considering UTEN for the Taiwan destination educational FAM trip. This would not have been possible without your support. The itinerary was exceptionally well planned and executed, making this a highly successful educational tour for all UTEN travel professionals. The knowledge and experiences gained during this trip will help us collectively market, promote, and sell the unique destination of Taiwan more effectively.



To Register in UTEN as a B2B Subscriber/B2C Subscriber
Do Connect to UTEN Founders Team

Winifred D'Souza: 9867750707 | Satyaprakash Gupta: 9820165612

✉ utentravelnetworking@gmail.com / founders@uten.in 🌐 www.uten.in

TRAVEL MEDIA PARTNER

BOTT
Business of Travel Trade
BOTTINDIA.COM



Grand Canyon of India

Gandikota

ANDHRA PRADESH

Where Every Journey Tells a Different Story

From sun-kissed shores and mist-covered coffee country to sacred temples, dramatic canyons and river landscapes steeped in tradition, Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a destination of remarkable contrasts.

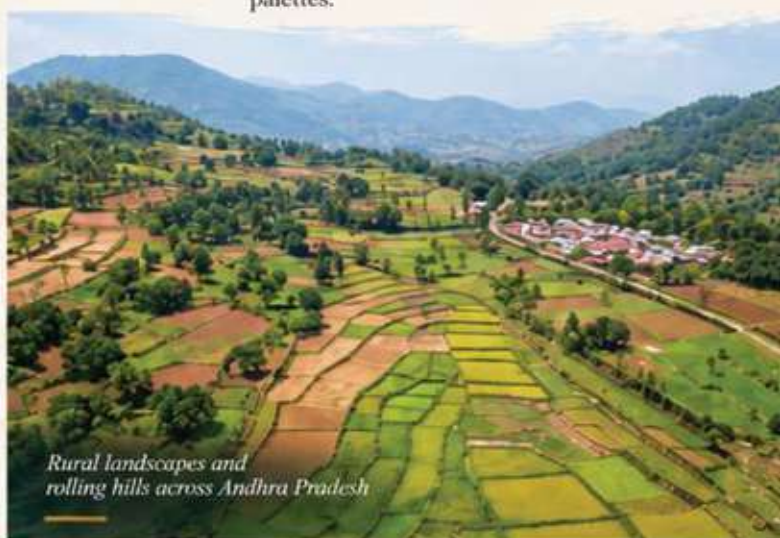
BOTT Desk

Some journeys begin with the sound of waves, others with temple bells. Some lead into the misty hills of coffee country, while others follow winding rivers, ancient trade routes or dramatic landscapes carved by nature over millions of years. In Andhra Pradesh, every journey seems to open the door to another experience, another story and another reason to stay a little longer.

For many travellers, the state begins with Tirupati. Yet beyond its celebrated spiritual identity lies a remarkably diverse tourism landscape. Andhra Pradesh combines a 1,053-km coastline, fertile river belts, heritage cities, coffee country, living craft traditions and one of India's most distinctive cultural palettes.



*Andhra's endless coastline
fringed with coconut groves*



*Rural landscapes and
rolling hills across Andhra Pradesh*

A Coastline of Possibilities, a Landscape of Surprises

Visakhapatnam offers a compelling gateway, where urban energy meets the Bay of Bengal. From here, the journey can move inland to Araku Valley, Borra Caves and the cool highlands of Lambasingi. In another direction, Rajahmundry opens the way to the Godavari region, where Konaseema, mangroves and village life create a slower, more immersive rhythm of travel.

Then there is Gandikota, whose dramatic gorge has helped redefine Andhra Pradesh for a new generation of travellers. Add Amaravati's Buddhist legacy, Lepakshi's artistry, Araku coffee and regional cuisines, and the state reveals itself not as a single destination, but as a collection of journeys waiting to be discovered.



Andhra Pradesh at global travel marts, connecting with partners for new opportunities.

When business becomes part of the destination story

As travel motivations evolve, Andhra Pradesh is also stepping into a larger role in India's meetings, incentives, conferences and events market. What gives the state an edge is not simply the availability of urban gateways, but the ability to pair business with a strong sense of destination.

Visakhapatnam leads this opportunity. With a growing hospitality ecosystem, convenient access and a striking coastal setting, the city can host corporate meetings, association gatherings and incentive programmes with ease. Yet what makes it memorable is what happens beyond the conference room: seaside dinners, scenic viewpoints, maritime experiences and onward journeys into Araku's coffee country.

Vijayawada and Amaravati offer a different but equally relevant proposition. Their administrative and institutional importance, urban services and access to the Krishna riverfront make the region suited to conclaves, policy gatherings and corporate events.

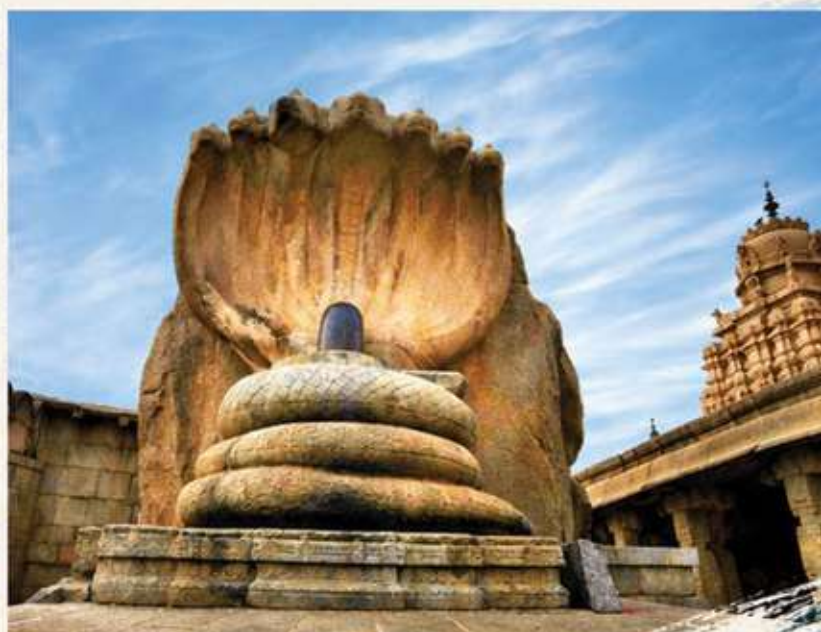
Delegates can move from formal sessions to Buddhist heritage, cave visits and craft traditions, giving programmes a richer cultural layer.

Tirupati opens the door to leadership gatherings, spiritual retreats and meaningful incentive travel, while Rajahmundry and Konaseema are ideal for smaller, carefully curated groups built around river journeys, cuisine and local experiences.

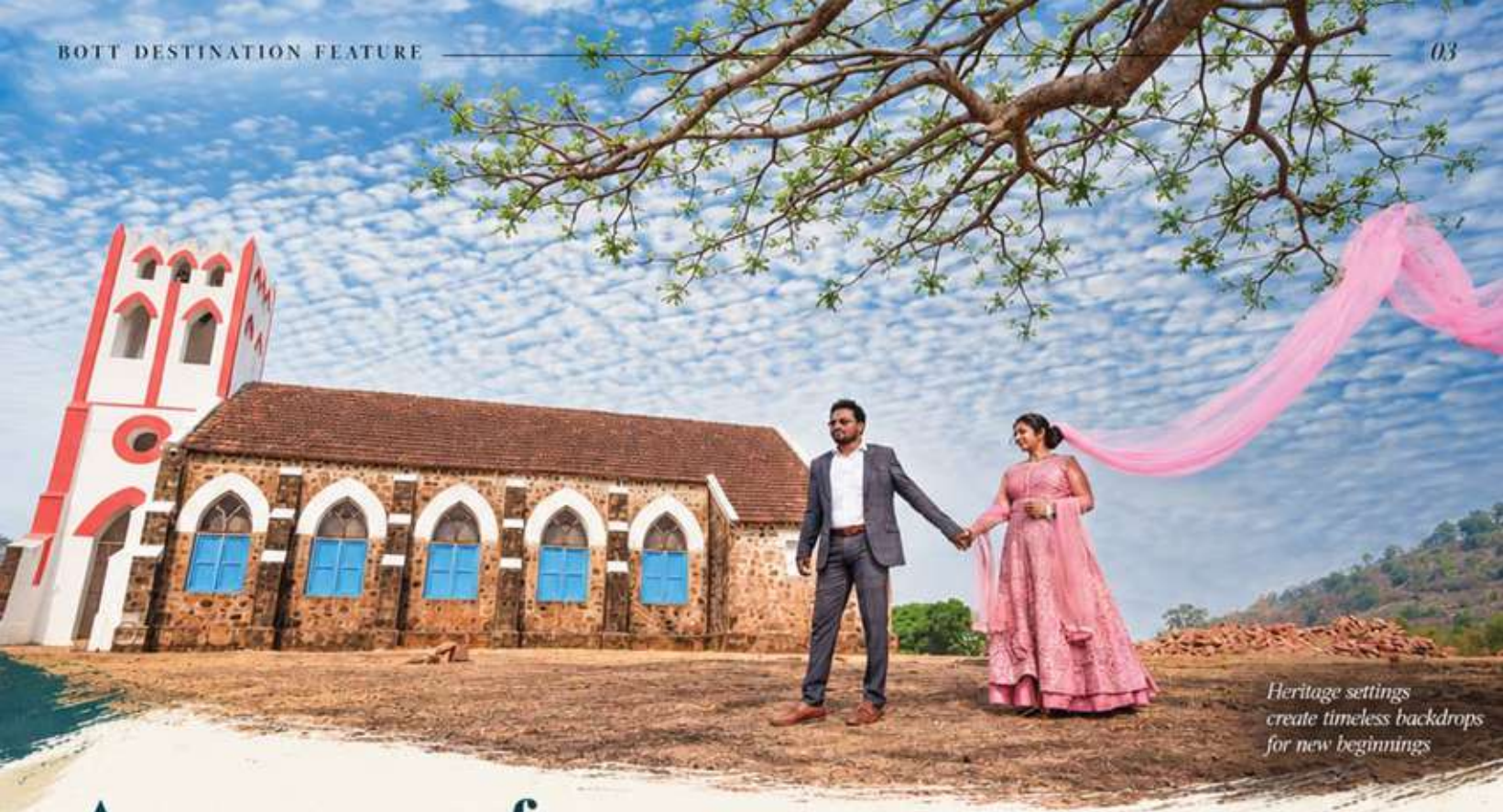
For planners, the appeal is increasingly clear: a business event in Andhra Pradesh can also become a destination experience.



Exploring Konaseema's tranquil mangrove waterways, a unique riverine experience for select groups.



Timeless heritage at Lepakshi, where spirituality and culture add depth to every journey.



Heritage settings create timeless backdrops for new beginnings

A new canvas for weddings and celebrations

If business events reveal one side of Andhra Pradesh, celebrations reveal another. With its mix of coastlines, temple towns, heritage settings, scenic valleys and strong cultural traditions, the state is beginning to emerge as an appealing canvas for destination weddings and social occasions.

Tirupati offers one of the most meaningful settings of all, especially for families drawn to the spiritual symbolism of beginning a new chapter in a place associated with devotion, ritual and auspicious beginnings. For others, Konaseema brings a softer, more rooted charm: coconut groves, backwaters, traditional homes and the warmth of Telugu hospitality create a setting that feels both intimate and deeply personal.

Along the coast, Visakhapatnam and Suryalanka open the door to beachside celebrations framed by sea breezes, open skies and resort-led experiences. Araku Valley, by contrast, offers a more intimate mood, where misty hills, coffee country and green surroundings lend themselves to smaller gatherings, pre-wedding retreats and memorable family escapes.

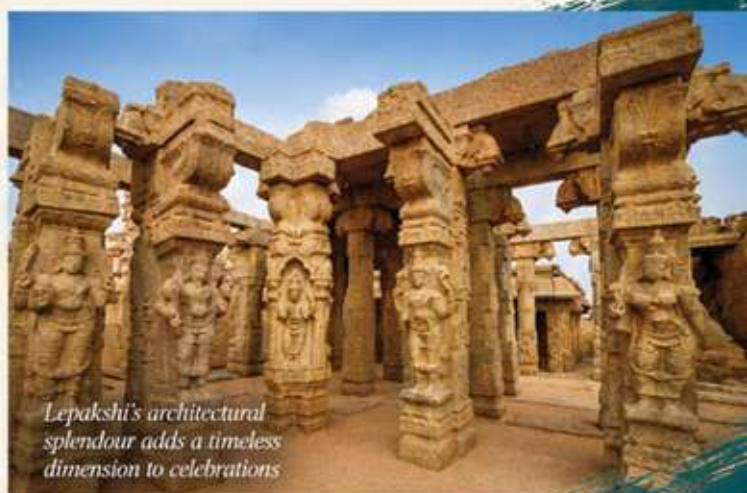
Heritage landscapes bring yet another layer. The visual drama of Gandikota, the architectural character of Lepakshi and the wider cultural depth of Andhra Pradesh allow celebrations to move beyond décor and into storytelling. In Andhra Pradesh, the wedding is not just an event. It can become a journey shared with family and guests.

“

In Andhra Pradesh, the wedding is not just an event. It can become a journey shared with family and guests.



Dramatic landscapes turn moments into unforgettable memories



Lepakshi's architectural splendour adds a timeless dimension to celebrations



Turning discovery into bookable journeys

For the travel trade, perhaps the most exciting aspect of Andhra Pradesh is the ease with which its diversity can be transformed into bookable journeys. Few states offer such a natural mix of pilgrimage, coast, cuisine, heritage, nature, culture and emerging experiential travel within one destination framework.

The state's tourism strategy identifies seven key anchor hubs — Araku Valley, Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Amaravati, Tirupati, Gandikota and Srisailem — creating a practical base for itinerary design. From these hubs, planners can build coast-to-hills journeys, spiritual circuits, heritage road trips, river experiences and blended programmes for leisure, MICE, celebrations and special-interest travel.

A four- or five-night Visakhapatnam–Araku–Borra–Lambasingi journey can appeal to families, nature lovers and incentive groups. Rajahmundry, Konaseema and Papikondalu create a slower Godavari circuit shaped by river landscapes, village life and cuisine.

Gandikota, Belum Caves and Lepakshi can anchor an engaging heritage-and-landscape route, while Vijayawada, Amaravati, Srisailem and the Tirupati belt lend themselves to spiritual and cultural travel.

A particularly timely opening is Godavari Pushkaralu 2027. For operators, this is not only an event opportunity but a chance to position the wider Godavari region as a year-round destination for spirituality, culture, river tourism and immersive regional travel. Technology is also becoming part of the visitor experience, helping make discovery easier and more engaging.

Andhra Pradesh is not one trip, but many journeys in one state.



TAFI celebrates 40 years

with a grand convention in Rhodes, Greece

Over 400 travel professionals gathered in Rhodes for TAFI Convention 2026, celebrating four decades of the Federation with insightful business sessions, stronger India-Greece tourism partnerships and memorable Greek hospitality.

Priyanka Saxena Ray



The Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) celebrated its 40th anniversary with a highly successful convention in Rhodes, Greece, from October 4–7, 2026. Hosted at the Rodos Palace Hotel, the convention attracted over 400 travel professionals, making it a remarkable gathering of industry leaders, travel advisers and tourism stakeholders. Held under the theme ‘Connecting Legacies, Crafting

Futures’, the event combined meaningful industry discussions with the warmth and splendour of Greek hospitality.

The inaugural evening witnessed a significant milestone with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between TAFI and the South Aegean Region. Signed by TAFI President Abbas Moiz and South Aegean Governor Giorgos Hatzimarkos, the agreement

seeks to strengthen tourism cooperation, promote regional destinations and enhance travel opportunities between India and Greece. Indian Ambassador to Greece, Ravi Shankar, also attended the occasion.

A particularly memorable moment was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Group, honouring his outstanding contribution and enduring



ASSOCIATIONS IN ACTION



legacy in India's travel and tourism industry.

The following two days featured engaging morning business sessions addressing the changing dynamics of the travel industry. Artificial Intelligence and its practical integration into travel businesses emerged as a central focus, alongside discussions on evolving technology, travel insurance, customer service and professional development. The sessions emphasised the importance of upgrading skills and strengthening the role of travel advisers in an increasingly technology-driven marketplace.

Richard Nuttall, President, Philippine Airlines, delivered a keynote address, adding an international aviation perspective to the proceedings.

Beyond the conference halls, thoughtfully curated pre- and post-convention familiarisation tours enabled delegates to explore Greece's cultural heritage, scenic landscapes and diverse tourism offerings. The Greek tourism fraternity proved exceptional hosts, while networking opportunities encouraged stronger business relationships between Indian and Greek travel partners.

With enthusiastic participation, enriching discussions, excellent hospitality and memorable celebrations, TAFI Convention 2026 concluded on a high note, reinforcing the Federation's legacy while preparing its members for the future of travel. **BOTT**



THE SAFFRON
CHARIOT



Dr. Pankaj Singh Chandel
Director Sales



Shri Raj Kumar
Director Operations

DISCOVER THE SPIRITUAL INDIA

Fly Above, Connect Within



Char Dham Yatra By Helicopter

Rs.2,20,000/- Per Person (Inclusive of All Taxes)

VIP Darshan at Yamunotri, Gangotri,
Kedarnath and Badrinath

4 Star
Accommodation



**5 Nights
6 Days**



Do Dham Yatra By Helicopter

Rs.1,40,000/- Per Person (Inclusive of All Taxes)

VIP Darshan at Kedarnath and
Badrinath Dham

4 Star
Accommodation



**3 Nights
4 Days**



Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

Rs.2,10,000/- Per Person (Inclusive of All Taxes)

Kailash Kora
Darshan

Mansarovar Lake
Darshan



14 Days



Panch Bhoot Lingam Yatra

Rs.47,000/- Per Person (Inclusive of All Taxes)

Jambukeswarar, Thillai Nataraja, Arunachaleswarar,
Ekambareswarar, Srikalahasteeswarar

Special Pooja
Arrangements

VIP
Darshan



Amarnath Yatra

Rs.43,100/- Per Person (Inclusive of All Taxes)

Return Ticket
(Helicopter)

Hotels
4 Star Category



**3 Nights
4 Days**

Unforgettable spiritual yatras with hassle-free helicopter rides,
luxury hotels, and exclusive VIP access.

Your Journey to the Divinity



www.saffronchariot.com

Office : C-52, Shri Ram Nagar, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand

+91 86799 66676, 7830030003, 7055455443

sales@saffronchariot.com, Info@saffronchariot.com



WTM Spotlight Riyadh 2026

Connecting global travel with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030

The inaugural WTM Spotlight Riyadh 2026, held at the Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Centre (RFECC) from September 8-10, marked the launch of a new platform connecting the world to Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia to the world.

Shreya Shimpi



Danielle Curtis
Regional Portfolio Director
World Travel Market Spotlight Riyadh
and Arabian Travel Market



ROWTH FOR VISION 2030



The inaugural WTM Spotlight Riyadh marked the launch of a new international meeting place for the travel and tourism industry as Saudi Arabia continues its transformation into one of the world's most dynamic tourism markets under Vision 2030.

Organised by RX, in strategic partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, the three-day event brought together destinations, tourism authorities, hospitality providers, airlines, travel technology companies, buyers, investors and industry leaders for business, net-

working and knowledge exchange. The conference programme featured senior Saudi and international voices discussing Vision 2030, outbound market opportunities and connected travel experiences.

Under Vision 2030, tourism is a key pillar of the Kingdom's economic diversification strategy, targeted to contribute 10% of GDP and attract 150 million domestic and international visitors annually by 2030.

Ageel AlShaibani, CEO, Saudi Tourism Authority, said, "With tourism spending growing by 5% year-on-year

in H1 2026, Saudi's tourism fundamentals remain exceptionally strong, underscoring the depth and durability of our market." He added that WTM Spotlight Riyadh connects global travel buyers with destinations, products and experiences shaping Saudi tourism while opening new opportunities for the travel trade.

Danielle Curtis, Regional Portfolio Director – UAE, RX, described the inaugural edition as an important milestone for the international travel community. "WTM Spotlight Riyadh has been created to connect the world



to Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia to the world,” she said, highlighting its focus on meaningful business connections, knowledge exchange and commercial opportunities.

In an exclusive conversation with BOTT, Curtis added, “Vision 2030 is all about tourism transformation, and the launching of WTM Spotlight Riyadh comes at a perfect time.” She highlighted Saudi Arabia’s significant investments in airports, hospitality and tourism infrastructure, noting that such events enable participants to experience this transformation first-hand.

Prominent Saudi exhibitors included Amsa Hospitality, Taiba Investments, flyadeal, Hilton KSA Hotels and The Jeddah Edition, alongside international brands such as Accor, MSC Cruises, Delta Air Lines, Etihad Airways and Webook.com. The conference featured speakers including Sultan Moraished, Red Sea Global; HH Prince Saud Al Saud, Tourism Development Fund; Mohamed Elbeheiry, EyeGo; and Njoud Al Yousef, United Nations Global Compact.

A key discussion, ‘The \$35BN Opportunity – How and Where to Capture Outbound Demand’, highlighted Saudi Arabia’s growing outbound travel market, currently valued at approximately US\$35 billion and projected to exceed US\$60 billion by 2030–2034.

Through its distinctive B2B2C format, WTM Spotlight Riyadh brought the international travel community directly into the Saudi market, creating opportunities to understand evolving traveller demand, develop partnerships and experience the Kingdom’s ongoing tourism transformation. **BOTT**



Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart 2026

strengthens travel trade connections in Jaipur

The sixth edition of the Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart (RDTM) 2026 brought together travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers and tourism stakeholders from across India in Jaipur, creating a strong platform for business networking, B2B engagement and showcasing Rajasthan's diverse tourism offerings.

Pallavi Sharma



The sixth edition of the Rajasthan Domestic Travel Mart (RDTM) 2026 concluded in Jaipur on September 19, bringing together travel agents, tour operators, hoteliers and tourism businesses from across India for business networking and engagement.

The event began on September 17 with an inaugural programme at the historic Amer Fort, followed by a panel discussion on "The Future of Rajasthan

Tourism: Trends, Transformation & Opportunities." The evening also featured a cultural programme and networking dinner, providing delegates an opportunity to experience Rajasthan's cultural heritage while engaging with industry counterparts.

The main exhibition and B2B programme were held at the BM Birla Convention Centre on September 18 and 19. More than 21,000 pre-scheduled B2B meetings were conducted between

registered buyers and sellers during the mart.

Around 300 travel agents and more than 700 properties and tour companies from Rajasthan participated in the event. The representation spanned hotels, tour operators, tourism boards, airlines, wedding planners, event managers, as well as luxury and experiential travel providers.

A key addition to this year's edition was the increased participation of stakeholders from the events and wedding segment, highlighting Rajasthan's growing potential for destination weddings and MICE tourism. The mart also provided a platform to showcase lesser-known destinations and regional experiences beyond Rajasthan's established tourism circuits.

Surendra Singh Shahpura, President, Federation of Hospitality and Tourism of Rajasthan (FHTR), said, "RDTM is a platform where we bring



travel agents from across India to experience what Rajasthan has to offer. From wellness, MICE and weddings to unique tourism experiences, our stakeholders have invested across diverse segments... we are committed to showcasing Rajasthan in all its diversity and strengthening its tourism ecosystem."

Highlighting the growing national reach of the mart, Tarun Bansal, Secretary General, FHTR, said, "RDTM has grown into a truly pan-India travel trade platform, bringing together 300+

hosted buyers and 700+ registered, non-hosted buyers from 26 states and Union Territories of India, along with over 700 tourism properties."

Gagan Katyal, Consultant, FHTR, said RDTM had received an "overwhelming response" from the travel trade, inbound operators, wedding planners and event planners. He added that the next focus would be the Marwar Travel Mart in Jodhpur, which would cover tourism offerings across Pali, Jawai and Jodhpur.

Khalid Khan, Executive Founder

Member, said RDTM 6 showcased nearly 700 Rajasthan tourism products and witnessed around 10,000 B2B meetings over two days, with expectations of stronger domestic tourism, wedding and MICE business for the state.

The event also marked the transition towards the upcoming **Marwar Travel Mart**, further strengthening Rajasthan's efforts to connect its diverse destinations, tourism products and experiences with the wider domestic travel trade. **BOTT**

The captivating journey of *Abbas Moiz*

Travel, to him, has been more than a profession—it has been a lifelong fascination. From taking his first flight at just one-and-a-half years old to becoming President of the Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), his remarkable journey has been shaped by honesty, integrity, curiosity and an enduring love for exploring and selling new destinations. Beyond his professional achievements, he finds great joy in his family and the memorable experiences they have shared. **Abbas Moiz**, President, TAFI National Managing Committee, shares more in an exclusive chat with **BOTT**.

Shreya Shimpi





QUICK SHOTS

- Your birth date and sun sign: **December 1, Sagittarius**
- Mountains or beaches: **Beaches**
- Favourite holiday destination: **Mauritius**
- Best travel hack: **Getting Business Class tickets on points**
- Window or Aisle seat: **Window**
- Favourite cuisine: **Bohri cuisine**
- Advice for a first-time traveller: **Don't do anything online as a first-time traveller. Go to a travel advisor.**

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 took my first flight when I was one-and-a-half years old. From then on, I have always been fascinated by travel—how airlines work, how airports function, and the entire legal process of immigration. Even while I was attending college, the dream of entering the travel industry was always there.

My interest was not so much in airlines as it was in the advisory space at that time. They would call you a travel agent even back then. That fascination with selling different destinations, seeing different places and the curiosity of wanting to know how things work in this industry was always there. I think it has been something I have been interested in since 1977.

I have always been very honest in my profession, and that has always been my USP. That has shaped me throughout my professional journey and has been the backbone of everything I have dealt with.

Reflecting on 2025, what would you say were the key highlights of your year, personally or professionally?

I was elected President of TAFI. So maybe what we did in the last four years were probably the right steps to build and develop a reasonable travel ecosystem in which everybody could participate.

Personally, I would just say that both my children bought houses in 2025, which was a highlight for our family.

What has been your proudest achievement to date?

I think my proudest professional achievement has been getting an IATA accreditation myself. That happened on December 31, 2004. I am also blessed with a great family and a good spouse. I am very content with what I have.

What is your dream destination for 2026?

Antarctica is something that my wife and I wish to explore. There is something incredibly special about the ruggedness of that continent. The fact that it is still a bit untouched and pristine—at least for now—is what makes it more captivating.

Can you tell us something about your family and a cherished childhood memory that makes you smile?

I grew up in the middle of Abdul Rahman Street, in a chawl where everybody's doors were always open. It was such a wonderful way to grow up. We knew all our neighbours, we played together, and I have some cherished memories of my school days there.

But one of the most memorable moments was when we were playing cricket with a season ball in the passage of our chawl. I was fielding when someone hit the ball straight at me. It caught me right in the face, and I ended up with a black eye! It was painful at the time, of course, but today it is one of those memories that always makes me smile.

I am blessed with two children. My wife was an educator until 2016. She used to run these AirOne programmes for schools and corporates. In 2016, she decided to stop doing that and joined me.

My daughter is a chemical engineer, and my son is a computer engineer. Both are happily settled abroad now. **BOTT**

IATO Convention 2026

brings tourism leadership together in Visakhapatnam

The 41st Annual Convention of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) brought together more than 900 delegates in Visakhapatnam, creating a vibrant platform for policy dialogue, knowledge exchange, networking and industry engagement. Held from September 10-13, 2026 at Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach under the theme 'India: The World's Next Tourism Opportunity', the convention focused on the issues shaping the next phase of India's tourism growth — connectivity, technology, sustainability, competitiveness, partnerships and responsible development.

Priyanka Saxena Ray



The convention opened on a high note with an impressive inaugural ceremony that brought together senior representatives from the Government of India, Government of Andhra Pradesh and the tourism industry. Among those addressing the gathering were Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister of Civil Aviation; Shri Kandula Durgesh, Minister for Tourism, Culture & Cinematography, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Neelu Sharma, Chairman, Chhattisgarh Tourism Board; Shri Shamsher Singh Rawat, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government (Tourism & Culture), Andhra Pradesh; and Shri Ravi Gosain, President, IATO. The evening also witnessed the release of the IATO Manual 2026-27 and the IATO Responsible Tourism Mission 2027 – Policy and Common SOP Document, reinforcing the association's growing focus on responsible and future-ready tourism.

Delivering one of the most impactful addresses of the convention, Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu highlighted the scale at which India's aviation ecosystem is expanding and the critical relationship between air connectivity and tourism growth. "India has 1,640 aircraft on order, more than any other country, reflecting the enormous demand for air connectivity. We recognise that certain routes, particu-



larly to tourist destinations, need better connections, and the Government is continuously engaging with airlines and the tourism industry to facilitate this. India is now going a step further under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, pursuing aircraft manufacturing domestically. We are adding around 9–12 aircraft every month, or 100–120 annually, strengthening connectivity across the country. Our commitment, our vision, and our challenge,

our task is that we need to create 100 more airports in the coming 10 years," he said.

His address set the tone for a convention that consistently returned to the need for stronger connectivity, better tourism infrastructure and closer coordination between aviation and tourism.

The following days were dotted with substantive business and knowledge sessions, turning the convention

into a forum for both big-picture policy conversations and practical industry discussions. Topics included 'India – World's Next Tourism Opportunity: Strategy and Policy', 'The Future Tour Operator – AI and Technology', 'Sustainable Tourism – Growth with Visitor Management', 'Unlocking High Growth Tourism' and 'Fostering Partnerships for Tourism Growth'. A dedicated session on Andhra Pradesh examined the State's tourism opportunity, while a

ASSOCIATIONS IN ACTION



special knowledge session looked at the new risk landscape for tour operators — from trip disruption to enterprise risk.

The depth of the convention was equally reflected in the calibre and diversity of its speakers. Prominent names included Shri Suman Billa, IAS, Additional Secretary & Director General (Tourism), Government of India; Shri Nakul Anand, former Executive Director, ITC Limited and hospitality and tourism expert; Shri Shamsher Singh Rawat, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government (Tourism & Culture), Government of Andhra Pradesh

and many more.

Industry participation was equally strong, with speakers including Manish Puri, Head of Sales, Air India; Vikram Madhok, MD, Abercrombie & Kent; Megha Ajgaonkar, VP – Sales, The Leela Palaces, Hotels & Resorts; Sanjay Basu, MD, Far Horizon Tours; Parveen Chander, Executive Vice President (Commercial), IHCL; Arif Patel, Chief Commercial Officer, ITC Hotels; Anshul Sethi, Head of Sales – India, IndiGo; Rohit Arora, VP – North & Goa and Head of Leisure Sales, The Park Hotels; Pronab Sarkar, MD, Swagatam Tours Pvt. Ltd.; and Kanwarjit Singh

Sawhney, MD, Bakshi Transport Service (P) Limited.

Day 2 of the Convention featured a high-powered discussion on the future of artificial intelligence in travel and tourism, with industry leaders examining how AI can reshape tour operations while strengthening, rather than replacing, the human element. Moderated by Naveen Kundu, the session featured Dev Karat, CEO, ASEGO; Abhishek Logani, Head – MyPartner, MakeMyTrip; Jitin Bhatia, Founder, Explurger; Chirag Agarwal, Co-Founder, TravClan; and Rocky Jagtiani, AI Transformation Coach. The



discussion explored AI's growing ability to improve operational efficiency, personalise experiences at scale, forecast demand and travel trends, enable data-driven decision-making and offer round-the-clock multilingual customer support.

For Ravi Gosain, President, IATO, the central challenge was to ensure that India translates its tourism potential into measurable outcomes. Calling for the industry to move from promise to performance, he stressed the need to convert India's attractions into

stronger visitor experiences, connectivity into viable tourism circuits and industry discussions into concrete action.

Responsible tourism was not restricted to discussion alone. The IATO Run for Responsible Tourism, held on the morning of September 12, brought delegates together around the message of sustainable and conscious travel. The convention also witnessed the signing of an MoU between IATO and the Indian School of Nature for a carbon audit of the 41st IATO Annual

Convention, followed by a presentation on the IATO Responsible Tourism Mission 2027.

At the heart of the gathering was Novotel Visakhapatnam Varun Beach, which played proud host to the convention's inaugural ceremony, business sessions, networking engagements and evening programmes. With the Bay of Bengal forming a striking backdrop, the property provided an apt setting for an event designed around dialogue, collaboration and the future of tourism. **BOTT**



Madhya Pradesh

Where Travel
becomes a Covenant
with Culture

“Rural and Responsible Tourism in Madhya Pradesh is a testament to the symbiosis between travel, culture, and community. Every visitor who steps into our villages participates in preserving traditions, supporting livelihoods, and nurturing ecosystems. This is tourism that empowers, transforms, and endures.”

— **Dr. Ilayaraja T.**, Secretary, Government of Madhya Pradesh, Tourism Department and Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board



IN an era of hurried itineraries and fleeting impressions, Madhya Pradesh is creating a more rooted model of tourism—one that connects destinations with their communities, cultures and natural environments. Through its Rural and Responsible Tourism Mission, the State is developing tourism experiences that celebrate local traditions while creating opportunities for participation, enterprise and sustainable destination development.

A LANDSCAPE OF LIVING TRADITIONS

Across Baghelkhand, Bundelkhand, Chambal, Malwa, Nimar and Mahakaushal, more than 241 villages have been developed as tourism destinations. Here, visitors encounter culture in its natural setting—from traditional crafts and local cuisine to farming practices, folk traditions and village life. More than 600 homestays provide an intimate alternative to conventional accommodation, allowing travellers to experience local hospitality while supporting rural households.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM IN ACTION

Madhya Pradesh's approach combines community participation, inclusion, safety and environmental responsibility through a growing portfolio of initiatives:

- **Rural and Tribal Tourism** – showcasing local culture and creating community-based tourism opportunities.
- **Home-Stay Schemes** – connecting visitors with rural communities and local lifestyles.
- **Safe Tourist Destinations for Women** – strengthening safety and women's participation in tourism.
- **Responsible Souvenirs** – supporting local artisans and culturally rooted products.
- **Clean Destinations** – promoting sustainable solid and liquid waste management.
- **Project Humsafar** – advancing inclusive and accessible tourism.
- **Hospitality & Tourism Skill Training** – developing local capabilities for employment and entrepreneurship.



WOMEN DRIVING CHANGE

Women's participation is an important pillar of Madhya Pradesh's responsible-tourism agenda. More than 10,000 women have been trained under the Safe Tourist Destinations for Women initiative, while 40,000+ women have received self-defense training. The initiative has also been recognised by NITI Aayog as a national Best Practice, following an assessment of its implementation across tourist destinations in Madhya Pradesh. The focus extends beyond safety to economic participation. From the Amaltas hospitality experience in Pachmarhi to a women-led handloom café in Chanderi, women are increasingly becoming hosts, entrepreneurs, artisans and tourism ambassadors.

EXPERIENCE THE DESTINATION FROM WITHIN

Rural tourism in Madhya Pradesh invites visitors to engage directly with local life. Pottery, weaving, farming, cooking local delicacies, cycling through agrarian landscapes and listening

to oral histories offer perspectives that conventional sightseeing cannot provide. These experiences also help keep traditional skills and cultural practices visible and relevant for future generations.



BUILDING THE NEXT TOURISM LANDSCAPE

The State is simultaneously expanding its tourism infrastructure and destination portfolio, with plans for 50 new destinations and 20 cultural and religious destinations. The emphasis is on creating destinations that combine better infrastructure, visitor amenities, distinctive experiences and sustainable growth, while opening new opportunities beyond established tourism centres.

A MODEL ROOTED IN PLACE

The experiences emerging from Ladpura Khas, Sabarvani, Pranpur, Madla and Khari illustrate the possibilities of community-oriented tourism. Their stories—from homestays and local enterprise to craft, cuisine and cultural experiences—reflect a wider transformation in how destinations can be developed. For Madhya Pradesh, responsible tourism is ultimately about creating a balanced relationship between visitor experience, local culture, economic opportunity and environmental responsibility. ■

Madhya Pradesh

*Where Travel Connects You to Place
Discover responsibly. Experience authentically.*

TBC

The Boutique Collection

RARE
SPACES.
REFINED
STAYS



YOUR HOTEL DESERVES THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS.

We at The Boutique Collection represent some of the most distinctive boutique hotels and resorts — connecting them with the right travel partners, corporate clients, media and luxury travellers.

From sales and PR to marketing, MICE and strategic partnerships, we put your property in front of the discerning Indian travelers.

YOU CREATE THE EXPERIENCE.
WE CREATE THE CONNECTIONS.

OUR SERVICES



BOUTIQUE
HOTEL SALES



MICE &
CELEBRATIONS



PR AND
INTEGRATED
MARKETING



BRAND
ALLIANCES



EVENTS AND
PROJECTS

KNOW MORE

WWW.THEBOUTIQUECOLLECTION.IN

Visa At Your Doorstep

Offer your customers the convenience of submitting their visa application from their doorstep - home, office, or preferred location with our optional service.

✓ Visa submission process

✓ Biometric enrolment (fingerprint and digital photograph)

✓ Passport collection and delivery



Book 'Visa At Your Doorstep' for your customers now

Visit: www.vfsglobal.com/visa-at-your-doorstep/

For exclusive deals, write to us on:

b2bsales@vfsglobal.com



Scan to apply

This optional service is known as **On-Demand Mobile Visa (ODMV)** for UK visas, and **Visa At Your Doorstep (VAYD)** for Schengen visas.



**The global leader in trusted technology services,
empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens.**

25
Years Since
Inception

71
Client
Governments

170
Countries
of Operation

4,312
Application
Centres

Over
567 Million
Transactions*
Processed

Over
245 Million
Biometric
Enrolments

Over
17,900
Employees

170
Nationalities

VFS.GLOBAL
Cares

*Comprising 349.06 million transactions by VFS Global and 218.52 million transactions by CiX Citizen Experience

Disclaimer: Please note this service is currently offered for select countries. Availability and service charge for above mentioned service may vary depending upon the country/location where it is procured. The choice of location for availing the service may vary depending on the concerned Embassy. The grant or refusal of the visa is at the sole discretion of the Embassy and availing above value-added service will not affect the processing time or decision of your Visa as VFS Global is neither involved in the process nor is liable or responsible in any manner whatsoever for the grant or rejection of the visa application of any customer by the Embassy. For further information on the same, kindly refer to the VFS Global website. The above-mentioned service is optional and will be charged in addition to the visa application fee. The customer hereby accepts and confirms that they, prior to availing the above-mentioned service, have read, understood, and agreed to be bound by, without limitations or qualification, all of the terms and conditions associated with the service. | Statistics as on 31 August 2020



50x WEEKLY FLIGHTS TO THE WORLD'S BEST BEACHES

Non-stop connectivity from Delhi and Mumbai

Delhi  Indonesia 10x weekly	Delhi  Maldives 4x weekly	Mumbai  Mauritius 7x weekly	Mumbai/Delhi  Sri Lanka 7x weekly/ 14x weekly	Delhi  Philippines 7x weekly
				



Hot Gourmet
Meals



3-Cabin Configuration Including
India's Only Premium Economy*



1200+ Hours
of Entertainment

*On select routes
For more information, please contact your Air India sales representative.